

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

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The Informant

Revolutionary to Rat:
The Uneasy Journey
of Brandon Darby

BY DIANA WELCH • P.24

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Up, Up, and Away

Do Obama's sky-high approval ratings and unprecedented support indicate unrealistic expectations?

BY LOUIS BLACK

PROLOGUE

"This ain't no party, this ain't no disco,
This ain't no fooling around
No time for dancing, or lovey dovey"
— Talking Heads, "Life During Wartime"

Once again, the electoral system as described in the U.S. Constitution has worked. There has been yet another peaceful change of administrations. The new president's widespread and enthusiastic support among the American people is heartening, even exciting, but still disturbing. Disturbing because too many may be expecting way too much from this administration, and way too quickly.

There is the concern that this country is as in deep a hole as it has ever been, as well as in more ways — diplomatic, economic, budgetary, and on and on — than ever. Usually, national tsunamis don't come so vast, wide, and deep, challenging even the very structural foundation of the country in those many areas. In some ways, it is appropriate to mention the Great Depression and World War II period as a model: There is a similarity in scope and concern, if not intensity. If nothing else, the former perfect storm still dwarfs our current one, so just the comparison might provide illusionary comfort.

What is surprising is the extent of the coming together of Americans in support and faith in this administration — but therein might well lie the problem. Given current conditions, even the best-planned and most diligent attempts at recovery may take much longer than anticipated, if they work at all. Some of those attempts are more likely than not to fail, at least in the beginning. The concern is that the sky-high approval ratings and unprecedented, across-the-board national support for President Obama indicate unrealistic expectations. What will happen if and when these expectations are not met, which could happen even if there are vast improvements but the resulting upturns are not sharp or happening quickly enough? Given the current highs, will we see matching, and thus inherently destructive, lows?

I

"America I've given you all and now I'm nothing.
America two dollars and twenty-seven cents
January 17, 1956.
I can't stand my own mind.
America when will we end the human war?
Go fuck yourself with your atom bomb
I don't feel good don't bother me."
— Allen Ginsberg, "America"

There are, of course, those with a vested interest in this administration falling on its face. Many pundits and politicians still seem undisturbed by the Bush administration's staggering spending spree of trillions of dollars, even though the country in general has precious little to show for what was spent. Arguing that it is "class war" to suggest that only a very few benefited (greatly and beyond all comprehension) from the Bush excesses is given lie by the current state of the economy. If nothing else, this state disproves the trickle-down theory, although the "stash away" and/or "gush out of the country into foreign investment" theories are more than healthy.

Yet many of the very same experts are now aghast at the plans of Obama to spend not nearly as much on programs to benefit a much vaster and far more widespread swath of the population.

Evidently it is okay to spend wantonly even if the means of meeting the budget is basically by printing the necessary money, but only under certain circumstances. The highest prioritized of these are tax cuts for the richest Americans — which, even when they work as intended and are unaccompanied by unconscionable spending increases, immediately and inevitably unbalance the budget. There are also the spending of unprecedented sums on no-bid reconstruction contracts that excite no scrutiny, even when unfulfilled, and the sending of packages of enormous amounts of cash, running into the billions of dollars. The list above is by no means complete. Evidently these circumstances also involve not spending in certain areas as well including reforming entitlement programs such as Medicare and Social Security, repairing the country's transportation infrastructure, health care, and the social safety net (actually cut by the previous administration, even though its overall costs were relatively so small there was no noticeable budgetary impact).

II

"When I die and they lay me to rest
Gonna go to the place that's the best
When I lay me down to die
Goin' up to the spirit in the sky"
— Norman Greenbaum, "Spirit in the Sky"

Tuning in to Fox News might shock one, as there are more blow jobs being given on the screen there than in most gay porn films. When Glen Beck "seriously" talks to Karl Rove or anyone talks to the embittered, vengeful Dick Morris (who, because he "engineered Clinton's victory," must have at least a sympathetic

page
two

understanding of Democrats — at least according to Fox logic), something is being sucked. Whenever Bill O'Reilly laughs at Dennis Miller's alliteration-focused, anti-Democrat "jokes," what's being verbally shared is neither ideas nor humor.

Pure, American white boy Sean Hannity says he truly believes that racism has disappeared in this country, that there is no longer any discrimination based on skin color, citing in his reasoning the end of slavery but ignoring the existence of segregation (more than 100 years of institutionalized racism). Disingenuously, he laments minorities' lack of love for the Republican Party, noting that it is the party of Lincoln and the one responsible for passing civil rights legislation — as though, still loyal to Lincoln, it weren't represented by almost all white faces at the 2008 convention. He ignores his inherent privilege so wantonly and gleefully, one realizes that, even if servicing nobody else, he is orally pleasuring himself.

In general, we are told by many that the Democrats are racist because they talk of race, while the Republicans are not because they so rarely mention it. They must be forgetting that there is not only the love that dare not speak its name but the caste system that must never be articulated.

III

"Same as it ever was ... same as it ever was ...
same as it ever was ..."

— Talking Heads, "Once in a Lifetime"

Now, you may ask: What of our beloved dissident friends, who ride under the flags of many different ideologies, ranging across the political and ideological spectrums, sharing little in common except their sense of the impending apocalypse? These include those on the far left who advocate violent revolution to those on the hard right who are concerned that the country is being overtaken by secular-humanist liberals (read "socialists," which means "communists") in order that they might morally and spiritually gut the country. These are just those groups that embrace familiar, if extreme, ideologies. There are also others, such as those committed, conspiracy-theorist "truth tellers," who guarantee that they are the only real patriots, the sole claimants to representing good because of their ongoing fight against the New World Order. They know that those who are not so engaged are either purposefully evil traitors or just massively and blindly stupid sheep.

These groups are similar only in their predictions of doom, disaster, and the end of life in this country as we know it. All

continued on p.6



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happily assure us that this nation is closer to fascism than post-Weimar Republic Germany. What of their many assertions that extreme name-calling was appropriate, because George W. Bush would never leave office and that the administration was going to stage even more “false flag” operations (such as the 9/11 attacks) to further the imposition of martial law, which was already happening?

Does the election of President Obama dissuade them even in the slightest? Come on, get serious: Just because we are willfully ignorant that the constitutional republic is dead and those in power are evil beyond comprehension doesn't mean that they, too, are fools! They know that the puppet masters who run the world have simply replaced the Bush puppet with the Obama puppet; nothing else has changed. Instead, the masses, afraid of the truth and unwilling to see what is really going on, have again been conned by the illusion of electoral government. Nothing has changed; there is no difference between the two parties, and Obama is the same if not worse than Bush. These kinds of assertions form a common thread through a range of groups whose other beliefs vary widely.

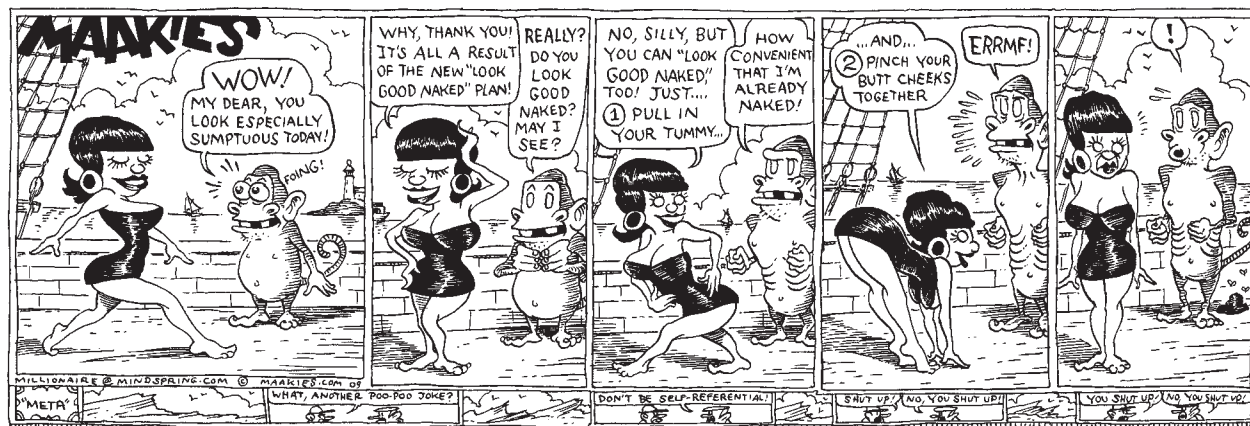
Since almost all these groups claim to be true constitutional loyalists, isn't the feasibility and appropriateness of that document called into question when they are certain that most of the population has willingly let itself be intellectually neutered?

IV

In the beginning, as they so often do, the naysayers asked questions for which they desired no answers: Isn't he just all talk and no action? What has he accomplished? Are not those who take him seriously naive, if not dangerous, fools? Are those who support him not high on utopian fumes, unaware of the hard and dark reality surrounding them? Don't they know – don't we all know – that to believe too much is to be misled, to expect too much is to end up feeling deceived? Isn't it ridiculous to believe that in politics, anything is as it is presented? Isn't it even more outlandish to expect that any politician will ever really bring change or offer any idea that is different? Isn't it obvious that it is all the same as it ever was and that it will always be this way?

Being overly and doggedly optimistic means one is guaranteed considerable if not comprehensive disappointment. The overly and doggedly pessimistic, however, are almost always rewarded in their correctness.

Some of them are always right because they see only what they want to see, finding the present dark and the future dark-



er. The city is dirty, its people ugly, the government malevolent in its intention, corrupt and oppressive in its ways – which are the same ways of all governments.

Even those who don't restrict their perceptions with predetermined pessimism can maintain an impressive average. The few patches of exposed white snow, where things turned out more to their liking and less as they predicted, still rest not in a field of light but are set against the near-pervasive dark.

The heads of idealists, utopian dreamers, and the faithful are always in the clouds; what they think is going on now and is going to happen in the future is determined not by sight but by belief. They are laughable and not to be trusted.

The pessimist will neither be conned, taken advantage of, or misled. The most militant are former optimists that have abandoned that outlook for pessimism. Far more important than dreaming or taking chances is that they will never again allow themselves under any circumstances to be perceived as a mark. Rather than suffering the terrible disappointments of being wrong, they embrace even casual cynicism, determined only that they won't be fooled again.

V

“I have heard what the talkers were talking,
the talk of the
beginning and the end,
But I do not talk of the beginning or the end.
There was never any more inception
than there is now,

Nor any more youth or age than there is now;
And will never be any more perfection
than there is now,
Nor any more heaven or hell than there is now.
Urge and urge and urge,
Always the procreant urge of the world.”

– Walt Whitman, “Song of Myself”

In the beginning, they said he is all and only talk. He is not one of us. He is not a veteran nor proven in any way. They asked who he was, where he came from, and what he accomplished. They claimed he talked in meaningless generalities, making pipe-dream promises while obviously allergic to specifics.

Those who supported him, despite their pedigrees, were dismissed as fools and dreamers. Since they had drunk deeply of the Kool-Aid, despite the lack of substance in the whole questionable if not corrupt venture, they were now trying to get all others to drink from the same pitchers.

As in the beginning, to many it is now.

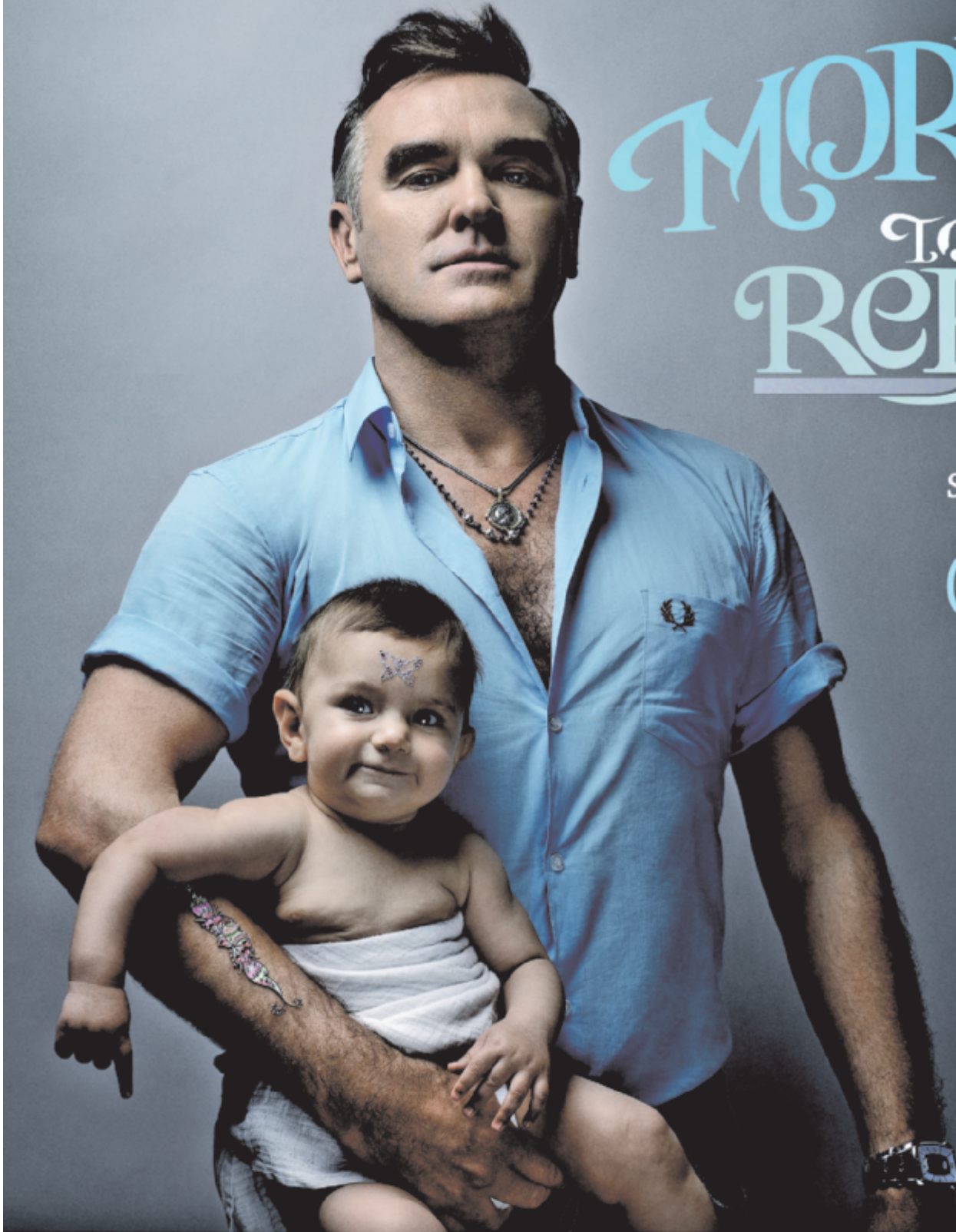
To be continued: To look at where we were and where we are now. To consider the meaning of the skepticism about Obama's free-floating rhetoric and perceived lack of accomplishment and the idea that his campaign treasured illusion while ignoring reality-treasure, resulting in a victory that evidenced shared delusion rather than any acumen. To examine the concerns that Obama's talk of change is rendered meaningless by his actions. Finally, to discuss whether the 44th president of the United States can achieve a change in direction by embracing more of the same. ■



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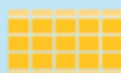
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IT’S THE ‘TEXAS’ MUSIC HALL OF FAME

Dear Editor,

Regarding Todd Potter’s letter about his band Bubble Puppy not being in the Texas Music Hall of Fame [Postmarks, Jan. 16]: No argument that Bubble Puppy should be in the Hall of Fame, but I do take issue with his complaints that many Hall of Fame members aren’t from Austin (it is the *Texas Music Hall of Fame*) and that the ones with charting hit records – Christopher Cross and Stevie Ray Vaughan – aren’t from Austin either.

I’d like to point out two members of *The Austin Chronicle*’s Texas Music Hall of Fame who are from Austin, still live here, make their livings in music, and had charting hit records: Charlie Sexton (“Beat’s So Lonely” from the 1985 *Pictures for Pleasure*) and Eric Johnson (“Cliffs of Dover” from 1990’s *Ah Via Musicom*). Having worked with these two fine artists, I have both of their certified gold records hanging proudly on my wall.

If it is a consolation to Todd, the one and only time I visited the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio, in the spring of 1996, Bubble Puppy was represented in the exhibit “One Hit Wonders.”

Thank you,
Wayne Nagel

‘AN EYE FOR AN EYE’

Dear Editor,

As a mother of four daughters, I believe in “an eye for an eye,” and if Robert Springsteen and Michael Scott are guilty of the yogurt shop murders, they should be bound, gagged, and set on fire [“Yogurt Shop,” *News*, Jan. 16]. But on the other hand, if they are not the true killers, I would not want an innocent person convicted of a crime he/she did not commit just so the police and prosecutors could save face.

Find the real killers, and get them behind bars.

Penny Prosser

‘COMPLEXITIES’ JUST SAME SHADES

Dear Editor,

From “Letters at 3AM” [Jan. 16]: “and the social acceptance, throughout the West, of homosexuality and endless varieties of gender-bending.”

I missed this; when did this happen exactly? I feel that this line in the story is the weakest point. It undermines the paragraph in which it resides, because just as the author is convincing me of his lengthy point about the complexity of the modern world, he throws in the kitchen

sink. Not necessary, a bit sensationalist, and I have no idea to what he is referring, unless he is pointing out that some dudes are shopping at Old Navy nowadays. Really, I need to be filled in, because I think that I missed a vital point somewhere along the way. Besides, a casual student of history would note that the so-called “complexities” of modernity are just shades of the same geopolitical games that have been going on for centuries plus the Internet (which isn’t nearly as exciting or world-shattering as some troglodytes make it out to be, not to be too much of a party pooper). I haven’t been paying much attention to this inauguration hoo-ha, so I suppose the historicity of it all has passed me by, although I did vote for the man. Also, I live in Chicago, so it’s tough to avoid some of this business, but I’m doing the best that I can. I guess the line above just didn’t connect with me at all. I’m not gay, so maybe I missed the party, but I’m wondering how I can be a fan of this column if the author is sort of off-base on this point.

Steve Talbot
Chicago

WITH PIZZA, TOPPINGS ARE CRUCIAL

Dear Editor,

Very much enjoyed your reviews of some of the smaller, stand-alone pizza joints [“Indie Pizzas,” *Food*, Nov. 14, 2008]. I would have added one more index, however. Did each mouthful, each bite, garner roughly an equal amount of toppings? I have found at some

places that there is some topping here but not over there. I want each bite to have roughly the same taste. I grew up on the East Coast – guilty as charged. I also like to know what sort of oven – gas, electric, or wood – is used. Pizza has improved greatly in the last 20 years here in town. I discovered Niki’s Pizza in ‘83 when I moved here. Still my favorite. Take care, and happy 2009.

Charles Egger

HOW ABOUT A REAL RESPONSE?

Dear Editor,

My original letter [“Postmarks,” Jan. 16] about Casey Porter’s claims about Iraq [“Stop the Loss,” *News*, Dec. 19, 2008] has stirred up some serious controversy. Unfortunately, not much has to do with Casey Porter or the article about him. Your readers have intense opinions about this war as a whole. Their opinions are so strong that they lack the ability to focus directly on the article; instead they continually stray back into the same anti-war pitch they have learned to deliver.

Therefore I must be more direct and go straight to the source. Can Richard Whittaker please respond to the comments I made about his article? I would love to hear his opinion about the veracity of Casey Porter’s claims that I disputed. I would be most interested in hearing which of his fellow journalists he has exposed as frauds for falsely claiming to be reporting from the safety of the Green Zone.

However, Richard, unlike your readers, I ask

CONTINUED ON P.10

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that you address specifically the point I make. Do not make this an additional, open-ended, nonspecific protest against the war.

Pat Rice

[Richard Whittaker responds: Capt. Rice's allegations break down into two halves. Firstly, that Casey Porter accuses the media of "misrepresenting their reporting of the war." Seasoned journalists of the Iraq war and occupation, such as Jonathan Finer of The Washington Post, Michael Ware of CNN, and Rageh Omaar (formerly of the BBC, now of Al Jazeera English), have made the same allegations as Porter that the reporting is incomplete at best and jingoistic at worst. Secondly, Rice argues that reconstruction has been successful. In the 2008 report from the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction titled "Hard Lessons: The Iraq Reconstruction Experience," Inspector General Stuart Bowen wrote: "Did the [U.S. reconstruction program] meet the goals it set for itself? The answer is generally no on the infrastructure front, but generally yes regarding the development of Iraq's security forces." Porter's allegations fit into a larger context of official and independent reports on the progress of the Iraq occupation.]

MUSIC BAN PART OF NATIONAL COLLAPSE

Dear Editor,

A "temporary" ban on outdoor music (permits) is ridiculous to be occurring in the "live music capital of the world." Although that slogan seems legendary as now Austin seems to be the "high-rise capital of the world." It's all coming together, folks. The government-promoted digital TV revolution, the new "elect" global leader, the collapse of the dollar, the corporatized-government media

monster, the division of elitist and everyone else — essentially the new world order. A condescending congratulations to everyone who voted our country right out of existence. You've chosen a completely unknown celebrity person who plans to bolster and enslave minorities and poor people to exist for the government. The wise know that real "change" will occur when the people demand abolishment of the Federal Reserve. Then everything else will fall into place. Instead, people (the majority has yet to be determined) continue to award this Oprahman who chose the president of the New York Federal Reserve as the nation's treasury secretary. He announces his plans on TV, weekday mornings, when housewives and poor people are the only ones watching. He eloquently talks of putting us in the deepest debt our country has known. He will increase taxes on citizens and allow complete corporate control of the United States government. The rich survive, and everyone else gets "paid" by the government. Wake up Americans! Austin is a great example of out-of-control corporatized government. A very corrupt government that clearly supports the dollar, right down to parking enforcement and music permits, with hugs and kisses for developers and conglomerates. We need permission (by giving money) to play live music in the live music capital of the world. It's never too late to bulldoze a condo or demand not to see one more Home Depot, IHOP, Wal-Mart, Walgreens, or any other corporation in Austin. Austin is tapped-out and inundated with big-box drive-through malls, high-rises, and McMansions. A soulless landscape soon to be without trees, green grass, dark skies, fresh air, or any stitch of nature to enjoy. It's not just Austin — it's everywhere. And it's out of control.

Still hoping,
Colette Michalec

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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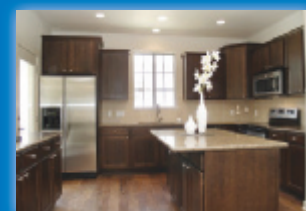
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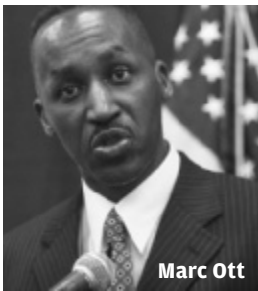
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news

Headlines

- › Bye-bye, George; hello, Barack: President **Barack Obama** moves into the White House as former President **George W. Bush** retires to Dallas ... and we can get back to the work of rebuilding our country and community.
- › The **Legislature** essentially went on inauguration hiatus after last week's House overthrow of former Speaker **Tom Craddick** and the big two-thirds dustup in the Senate; this week promises committee appointments and budget drafts. The House reconvenes Jan. 22; the Senate stays away until Jan. 26. See "On the Lege," p.16.
- › The **State Board of Education** met Wednesday to consider and vote on the public school science curriculum, in part to determine whether Texas students should consider evolutionary biology as confirmed knowledge or just some idle notion dreamed up by secular humanists to annoy true believers.
- › The 2009 City Council lumbered into operation, approving a master plan for improvements to **Barton Springs Pool**, formally adopting a **zero-waste plan** (see "Naked City," p.14), and enacting a temporary moratorium on **outdoor music permits** until it sorts out Live Music Task Force recommendations.



Red ink and dark days: On Jan. 16, City Manager **Marc Ott** announced hiring and pay review freezes for all city staff and asked departments to find an extra \$15 million in budget cuts.

- › Council Member **Lee Leffingwell** launched his campaign for mayor on Friday, triggering the fight for his Place 1 seat and making the race between him and Mayor Pro Tem **Brewster McCracken** official. Meanwhile, 'tis the season for serious mayoral and council candidates to start fattening their war chests, as the latest round of campaign finance reports shows; see "Campaign Money Fattening Local Coffers," p.19.



Lee Leffingwell

- › The **Backyard**, a popular music venue west of Austin, received rezoning approval from the city of Bee Cave to relocate to a new 35-acre spot off Highway 71, west of the 620 intersection. The former site had lost its Hill Country magic as retail development replaced the venue's backdrop of trees; **Willie Nelson** played the closing night show in October. Groundbreaking at the new site begins this spring.
- › The Hutto Citizens Group galvanized activists countywide to form the **Williamson County Public Policy Coalition**, which will "foster better county government" and oppose, among other things, expansion of the regional landfill (aka "Mount Hutto") and repeated contract renewals allowing T. Don Hutto Residential Center in Taylor to jail noncriminal immigrant families.



JOHN ANDERSON

Hundreds of happy Austinites watched Tuesday's televised inauguration of Barack Obama at Scholz Garten, the venerable watering hole for local Dems. The event was hosted by the Travis County Democratic Party.

'Embrace What Is Right'

On Obama, what it means ... and what it doesn't

BY MICHAEL KING

It didn't hit me until Aretha began to sing.

Until then, I was fairly impervious to the inaugural hoopla, having so long anticipated this hour that it seemed old news by the time it finally arrived. Watching the endless preliminaries on the office TV, we were teasing one another, muttering about Bush (and the odious Rick Warren), wincing at the inevitably lame TV commentators, and pretending to spot absent, lucky friends ("there's Dunbar!") amidst the enormous, unending throng.

Then Aretha, topped with that spectacular Sunday hat, began, "My country, 'tis of thee," her voice, as it always does, carrying the cultural history of the last 50 years. It suddenly and overwhelmingly struck me what an extraordinary history it has been — "sweet land of liberty" — culminating for the astonishing moment in the ascension of a still young African-American man to the presidency of the United States. As nearly everybody said, it was not something we imagined possible 50 years ago or when Aretha Franklin was still a little girl, singing in the choir of a Detroit congregation.

point
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Let Freedom Ring!

In the wake of that epiphany, most of the speeches seemed anticlimactic, including the new president's dutiful paean to work and responsibility (hey, it wasn't us slackers that got us into this mess). At least he and John Roberts, the Harvard Law School stars, managed jointly to screw up the presidential oath, nicely denting their mutual reputations for perfection. I was most surprisingly taken by the benediction by civil rights warhorse Joseph Lowery, who declined to answer the general call to tightly wrapped formality, instead closing the ceremonies on a reassuringly colloquial note. He called on the Lord, all right, but his prayer was aimed more precisely at the lingering historical distinctions among the multitude. "Lord, in the memory of all the saints who from their labors rest, and in the joy of a new beginning," the Rev. Lowery prayed, "we ask you to help us work for that day when black will not be asked to get in back; when brown can stick around ... when yellow will be mellow ... when the red man can get ahead, man; and when white will embrace what is right."

CONTINUED ON P.15

QUOTE of the WEEK



JOHN ANDERSON

"To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history; but that we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist."

— President Barack Obama

Naked City

► **COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES MUSIC DEPARTMENT** City Council has given its nod by a 7-0 vote to creating the city **Music Department**, asking staff to come back Feb. 26 with a range of options for structuring a new department dedicated to Austin's live music industry. To date, music-industry support has been housed within the Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office; the **Live Music Task Force** recommended a freestanding department with more authority and autonomy, as well as a more direct line to receiving staff and funding. (Not surprisingly, some at the Economic Growth Office are unhappy about losing their existing turf and powers.) Given the constraints of this budget year and now a city hiring freeze, it's unclear whether the city will be able to fund additional staff positions. Anthony Snipes, chief of staff to City Manager Marc Ott, is heading up the staff response to council. (He's also heading up a separate response to council regarding creation of a cultural arts department.) As Mayor Will Wynn has noted, the Economic Growth Office was created earlier this decade during a period of economic contraction; in the current recession, council is once again hoping to stimulate the economy through an investment in music-industry growth. — Katherine Gregor

► **MAKE HASTE, NOT WASTE** City Council formally adopted an ambitious **Zero Waste** program last week that calls for a 20% drop in waste sent to landfills and incinerators by 2012, ultimately shrinking the amount 75% by 2020 and 90% by 2040. The project calls not only for increases in recycling and the further "greening" of city events but also tasks manufacturers with developing less wasteful products and assuming additional responsibility in seeing their wares recycled or reused. Calling the changes "a long time coming," Council Member **Lee Leffingwell** moved that the plan be adopted with several amendments, including directing the city manager to incorporate Zero Waste's goals into a Solid Waste Services master plan; requiring council approval for the "pricing, collection, and disposition" of trash and recyclables and operations of landfills; and encouraging landfill operators to study methane collection as an energy source. — Wells Dunbar

► **WORKERS COMP PLAINTIFF DIES** Confirming the aphorism "justice delayed is justice denied," **John Summers**, the plaintiff in the **Entergy v. Summers** case, died of a heart attack in December. Controversy erupted around the case in 2007, when the Texas Supreme Court ruled that the owners of a work site could also be considered their own general contractors and thus be shielded from injury suits by a law that makes workers' compensation benefits the "exclusive remedy" for injured workers under certain insurance plans. The decision angered labor unions and legislators alike, who argued that the court had read the law too literally and ignored the Legislature's intent that site owners be excluded from being considered the "statutory employer" in workers' comp cases. After numerous calls for a rehearing of the case — even from the Texas Association of Defense Counsel — the court finally relented in October. Reportedly, Summers' death will not prevent the court from eventually handing down a decision. — Lee Nichols

► **BIKE PROGRESS** City Council last week approved a \$97,641 contract with UT's **Center for Transportation Research** to study the effectiveness of and possible locations for new bike facilities and other improvements that could hit the pavement in a year or so. Among the improvements to be studied are shared-lane markings, called "sharrows," designed to move bikes to the center of a right-hand lane (away from the opening doors of parked cars) in the absence of bike lanes. "Although this is a fairly small study, this is a humongous step forward for encouraging bicycling and making it safer in Austin," said **League of Bicycling Voters** President Rob D'Amico. Also approved at Thursday's council meeting was a bike "wish list" for possible federal economic stimulus funds, a package for \$2.6 million in new bicycle facilities identified by the city as ready to go for quick construction. — Daniel Mottola

NEWS

AND THEY'RE OFF!

Leffingwell announces, and the mayoral sparring begins

BY WELLS DUNBAR

When **Lee Leffingwell** formally announced his intention to run for mayor last week, he loaned his own campaign \$41,163 — \$1 more than the previous front-running fundraising haul. But who would've guessed that total would belong to **Carole Keeton Strayhorn**, not **Brewster McCracken**?

Just a few weeks ago, it seemed a long shot that Strayhorn — a political chameleon who's changed party affiliation one too many times for blue-dyed Austin — would have a major impact on the race. But that was before the candidates' Jan. 15 fundraising reports, which put Strayhorn decidedly in the lead, having collected \$41,162 to McCracken's \$17,778 (see "Campaign Money Fattening Local Coffers," p.19). Leffingwell, undeclared during the reporting period, had only his prior election funds on hand but, upon formally announcing his intentions, cut himself a check matching Strayhorn's haul. That underscored the possibility — however unlikely — that Strayhorn could be a bigger threat to Leffingwell's mayoral ambitions than his fellow council member.

Fittingly, the other electoral surprise has been the quietness of the McCracken campaign thus far. If Strayhorn had not decided to declare in early January, Leffingwell could have safely stayed out of the race even longer, letting any quibbles over vacating his council seat recede further into the sunset.

Like its candidate, the formal Leffingwell announcement was a decidedly low-key affair. Saturday morning in the still-sleepy Bouldin Creek neighborhood, outside the house in which Leffingwell grew up, the setting was a sharp contrast to the industrial digs where his opponents staged their announcements. It wasn't the only difference Leffingwell sought to impart. "I'm not in this race to use the mayor's office as a stepping stone for something else, and I'm not in this race to satisfy my ego," he said, none-too-subtly knocking McCracken for his apparent ambition and castigating "wild-eyed exuberance" in general. But it wasn't all throw-

ing elbows; in his speech and the interviews afterward, Leffingwell enumerated his policy proposals. The centerpiece he called "**Austin Corps**," a general volunteer and internship program for young Austinites through which they can "learn the value of real work" by assisting their city.

McCracken, for his part, seems ready to mix it up. Leffingwell campaign impresario **Mark Nathan** called attention to McCracken's appearance on KLBJ

590AM's *The Lisa Fritsch Show* last weekend, chastising some of Leffingwell's positions.

Prompted by a call to the show from former Leffingwell council opponent **Jason Meeker**, who attacked Leffingwell's proposal to offer optional **carbon-offset credits** from Austin Energy as "another thing that the politicians want to do to take more money out of our pockets," McCracken said he's "not really sure about what [Leffingwell's] talking about." He added that Leffingwell also "wants to have a \$500 million **bond election** in 12 months," a proposition McCracken said doesn't make sense.

"I was surprised to see such strong opposition to the idea of holding a transit election from someone who has been such a strong proponent of the same idea in the

recent past," Leffingwell responded, alluding to McCracken's early zeal for a **rail election**. He also took umbrage with McCracken's rap on his carbon-offset plan and his separate charge (echoing the real estate lobby) that "Lee was in favor of prohibiting homeowners from selling

their homes until they got a government-approved energy upgrade on their home they were selling." Leffingwell responded, "I'm concerned that the revival of the so-called '**green home tax**' issue does not bode well for a dialogue among the mayoral candidates that prioritize new solutions over old scare tactics."

Scare tactics, fundraising numbers, competing campaign statements: With Leffingwell's announcement, the mayor's race is under way for real. Here we go. ■

When will the Hustle declare? Inquire at wells@austinchronicle.com.



Apart from Strayhorn's fundraising lead, the other electoral surprise thus far has been the quietness of the McCracken campaign.

res publica

FOR MORE DETAILS AND EVENTS, SEE **COMMUNITY LISTINGS**, P.58.

THURSDAY 22

TEXAS GREEN NETWORK MEETING 6-8:30pm. Red Bud Center, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., 473-3200. www.texasgreennetwork.org.

BILL SPELMAN CITY COUNCIL CAMPAIGN KICKOFF 5:30pm. Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto, 466-6939. Free. www.billspelman.org.



Bill Spelman

FRIDAY 23

THE UNFORESEEN Join Save Our Springs Alliance Director **Bill Bunch**, rancher **Henry Brooks**, and filmmaker **Laura Dunn** for a screening and discussion of documentary *The Unforeseen*, about the historic developer vs. conservationist showdown over the Edwards Aquifer and Barton Springs. 7pm. Ragsdale Center, Jones Auditorium, St. Edward's University, 3001 S. Congress. Free. www.screendoorfilm.com.

CHRIS RILEY CITY COUNCIL CAMPAIGN KICKOFF 6-8pm. Threadgill's World HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304. www.chrisforaustin.com.

SATURDAY 24

ACTION FOR ANIMALS ANTI-FUR PROTEST 11am-12:30pm. Julian Gold, 1214 W. Sixth, 879-7437. www.actionforanimalsaustin.org.

IN MEMORY OF ANA SISNETT Join friends and admirers of the beloved author, artist, and activist, who passed away last week after a three-year battle with cancer. (See "Remembering Ana Sisnett," Screens, p.47.) 1pm. Trinity United Methodist Church, 600 E. 50th.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN OPEN HOUSE Learn about the progress on the **North Lamar Combined Neighborhood Plan**. 10am-1pm. St. Mark United Methodist Church, 601 W. Braker. www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/north_lamar.htm.

SUNDAY 25

ECO SERIES: PECAN STREET PROJECT & THE UTILITY OF THE FUTURE Curious about the cryptically named project putting Austin at the center of national smart-grid research? Don't miss this talk from Mayor Pro Tem **Brewster McCracken** and Gridpoint's **Mike Bates**. 2-4pm.

Pollen Architecture & Design, 1200 E. 12th. \$5. RSVP at www.ecoseriesaustin.com.

LEGISLATIVE POLICY FORUM A nonpartisan environment for discussing major issues of the legislative session. 4pm. First United Methodist Church, 1201 Lavaca.

RAJ PATEL The author of *Stuffed and Starved: Markets, Power and the Hidden Battle for the World Food System* explores the roots of the global food crisis and our path to a more sustainable and democratic food system. 6pm. St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 14311 Wells Port Dr. \$11.50. RSVP at www.ecoseriesaustin.com.

WEEKLY PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM Former Austin Mayor **Frank Cooksey** talks about Austin's trends — both past and future. 11:30am. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinnu.org.



MONDAY 26

COMMUNITY PANEL ON POVERTY 6pm. Caritas of Austin, 611 Neches, 432-1946. Free. www.ilivehereigivehere.org.

LEGISLATIVE DAY FOR MOTORCYCLE COMMUNITY Join bikers from across Texas to ensure that motorcyclists' voices are heard this legislative session. 9am-3pm. Texas Capitol, 560-1458. Free. www.coctexas.org.

TUESDAY 27

PUBLIC HEARING: HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT is the first in a series of forums held by the city to solicit feedback on various community programs to be included in the Fiscal Year Consolidated Plan for 2009-2014. 2pm. Community Action Network, 1000 E. 11th Ste. 400-A. www.cityofaustin.org/housing.

THURSDAY 29

DESIGN VOICE KICKOFF is the beginning of an ongoing forum where architects and Austinites can come together to discuss housing

Just a Memory

Lowery's folksy prayer is doubly important in the aftermath of the inauguration, as the usual cabal of conservative commentators has predictably begun braying that Obama's election means that racism is no longer a serious national problem and we can all proceed to more important matters, such as waging war and cutting taxes. George Will joined the chorus on Sunday, taking up the Austin-based Voting Rights Act lawsuit I wrote about here last week (Jan. 16) and declaring, with long-time VRA foes Abigail and Stephan Thernstrom, that "Obama's election demonstrates that another facet of the Voting Rights Act has lost its original, and even then spurious, rationale." Stymied by a virtually unanimous 2006 congressional extension of the VRA, Will has to resort to claiming that it was "based on the evidence used for the 1975 extension" — when in actual fact, there was plenty of dismal evidence from the current decade that various forms of voter suppression (including the race-bound Texas re-districting) remain in use, especially in the regions covered by Section 5 of the VRA.

Will and his familiars refuse to acknowledge that the Voting Rights Act has in fact never been about candidates but about voters — and in the absence of legal inhibitions, the WFIC (white folks in charge) will return to their historical practices of suppressing the minority vote by any means possible.

Premature Celebration

Which brings us by degrees to the Texas Senate and the recent demise of the "two-thirds rule," the gentlemen's agreement whereby no substantive bill could reach the floor without the support of two-thirds of the senators. To be frank, only sanctimony or hypocrisy allows any self-respecting reporter to mourn entirely the loss of the rule, as it

effectively turns the Senate into a ritualized oratorical exercise, as most of the unreportable "debate" happens offstage, before legislation ever reaches the Senate floor. That official privacy will in fact mostly continue; what's significant about this particular change is that it was done for the purposes of voter-ID laws, a coordinated national GOP effort to pretend that there is a (heretofore invisible) wave of fraudulent voters who will be bureaucratically foiled by requiring photo IDs at the polls. Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst put it bluntly enough: "Everybody wants to make sure that only U.S. citizens vote in our elections."

Since it's demonstrably false that undocumented immigrants — who reflexively avoid official interactions — vote in any substantive

numbers, the voter-ID bills are inevitably symbolic pitches at the nativist Republican base, routinely determined that the relentless attempts by Mexicans and Muslims to take over the country must be stopped. The GOP leadership, looking glumly at the Texas demographics and dreading

the inevitable outcome of the 2010 census — when we officially become a majority-minority state — has thus decided to stand its ground with the Anglo minority and against the growing legions of young minority voters. If they can't stop the waves from crashing on the shore, perhaps they can keep as many as possible from exercising their voting rights.

In short, when Will complains that "the civil rights impulse has decayed into coarse political entrepreneurship, exploiting today's racial spoils system," he neglects to add that he had long declined to complain as long as the right people retained the spoils. Now that other folks are finally standing at the table, he's suddenly worried that there might not be enough to go around. The election of Barack Obama means a great many things — but it hardly means it's time to declare that the battle for racial justice has been won. ■

There's plenty of dismal evidence from the current decade that various forms of voter suppression remain in use.

advocacy and community building. 6-7:30pm. Center for Architecture, 801 W. 12th. www.realcommunity.ning.com.

CENTRAL WEST AUSTIN LAND USE PLANNING WORKSHOP 6:30pm. LCRA Red Bud Facility, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., 974-2857. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/central_west_austin.htm.

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS SUMMIT Learn the latest in making your business sustainable and what that can mean for your bottom line. Thu.-Fri., Jan. 29-30. McCombs School of Business. \$75. www.utsummit.com.

TEXAS WATER SYMPOSIUM Gregory Ellis, attorney and executive director of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, discusses History of the Rule of Capture and Its Role and Status in Shaping Water Policy and Planning in Texas. 7pm. Nimitz Museum, 340 E. Main, Fredericksburg, 325/446-2301. Free. www.schreiner.edu/water.

ONGOING

SHELTER MAKEOVER CONTEST Want to help Austin's largest no-kill shelter win a \$1 million makeover? Register at www.zootoo.com/makeover to

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MODELS OF THE WALLER CREEK TUNNEL PROJECT are on display through Jan. 31. If you want to see what this milelong tunnel will look like and how it will allow denser development around Fourth and Fifth streets, visit *Faulk Central Library*, 800 Guadalupe. www.cityofaustin.org/wallercreek.

FREE PAPER EXHIBITION Artist Annette Lawrence (r) uses 265 pounds of junk mail to delight the eye and explore consumer culture. Co-sponsored by Austin Green Art and sure to inspire your support of the national Do Not Mail campaign. Through Feb. 6. *Flatbed Press*, 2832 E. MLK, 477-9328. www.austingreenart.org.



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110 North I-35, Ste. 250	Round Rock	(512)244-4363
5324 Cameron Rd.	(Same center as Gage Furniture)	452-2200
13492 Research Blvd.	(183 & Anderson Mill Rd.)	258-8181
600 William Cannon		462-3868
409 W. Front St. #100, Hutto		759-4300
850 N. Bell #304	Cedar Park	(512)258-4990
11126 Jollyville Rd.	(at Balcones Woods Dr.)	346-8845
920 B. N. Austin Ave.	Georgetown	(512)930-0666
12218 N. 620		257-0057
4005 W. Parmer Lane, Unit C, Silver Creek Center		339-0401
8400 Brodie Lane #101, 78745		291-1588
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Austin Sen. Kirk Watson (r) squares off against The Woodlands Sen. Tommy Williams.

Senate Fight: What's Two-Thirds of Less Than Zero?

"At the beginning of my 23rd year in the Texas Senate, I never thought I would hear myself say these words: We should learn from our colleagues in the House of Representatives," Laredo Democrat **Judith Zaffirini** wearily admitted on the Senate floor last week. "Changing the rules is simply not the wise thing to do. ... This sets a bitter and partisan tone for what we hoped optimistically would be a great session."

By now, if you're dutifully keeping up with the *Chronicle's* new LegeLand Web page (austinchronicle.com/legeland) or that of some lesser publication, you've heard about the acrimony that kicked off the 81st session of the Texas Senate last week. Even so, Texans might still be unclear on what the fuss was all about and why they should care. Austin Sen. **Kirk Watson** acknowledged as much in his floor speech: "This whole big fight is over really a procedure, a technical maneuver, a technical matter. In other words, it's a really complicated thing that I think most folks would find rather boring." Perhaps, but it could have grave consequences for the ability of thousands of Texans to vote.

The fuss comprised two fights, battled simultaneously on Jan. 14. Immediately at hand was an attempt to set aside the Senate's "**two-thirds rule**," which determines the flow of legislation to the floor. Once that tactical move succeeded, it then set the stage for the second (policy) issue, voter-identification requirements.

The two-thirds rule is unique to the Texas Senate: Traditionally, by means of a noncontroversial "blocker bill" placed at the top of the agenda, no bill may set aside the blocker bill and thus come to the floor for debate unless 21 of the 31 senators allow it (at which point the majority rules). The rule, in theory, promotes bipartisan consensus – the most contentious issues get worked out beforehand in committee (or backstage), the bloody floor battles typical of the House are thereby avoided, and the majority does not trample the minority.

The rule has long served the Senate well as a nonpartisan safety valve, but last session the Democrats used it to sty-

mie the Republican majority from passing a national GOP pet project: a **voter-ID bill**, which would require voters to present photo ID before being allowed to cast a ballot. That may sound sensible enough, but Democrats argue it has dangerous consequences: Women, the elderly, minorities, and the poor are less likely to possess photo IDs. Dems say the fact that those groups are more likely to vote Democratic is no coincidence – rather than preventing voter impersonation (a virtually nonexistent crime), the real aim is to help suppress Democratic turnout. The Dems had the 11 votes necessary to block it two years ago, and now they have 12.

So this time, Republicans decided to jump the gun: **Tommy Williams**, R-The Woodlands, introduced a resolution to suspend two-thirds specifically for voter-ID bills. Because the rules of the Senate for this session (including the two-thirds rule) had not yet been adopted, only a simple majority was needed to pass Williams' resolution.

New Nurse Staffing Bill

Austin Rep. Donna Howard and Sen. Jane Nelson of Flower Mound have co-authored legislation (Senate Bill 476/House Bill 591) that requires all hospital governing boards to adopt, implement, and enforce a nurse staffing policy. The bill comes at a time when hospitals around the state are facing critical nursing shortages. Among other requirements, the bill would elevate hospital nurse staffing committees to standing committees that must report directly to the hospital board and require that each committee be composed of at least 50% registered nurses who provide direct patient care. "Nurses are on the front lines and should play a critical role in determining staffing levels at their hospitals," said Howard, a former nurse at Brackenridge and Seton. The bill has the support of both the Texas Nurses Association and the Texas Hospital Association.

– L.N.

Thus began a bitter, all-day battle, one Republicans knew they would eventually win and which thereby reduced Democrats to making symbolic arguments.

Williams said he'd researched the Legislature's history and "was surprised to find, after all I'd heard about our sacred tradition of the two-thirds rule, that there are literally hundreds of instances where this body has chosen to either ignore or go around the two-thirds rule to bring legislation to the floor." Williams pointed particularly to a mechanism used on redistricting issues in 1981. "That struck me as an issue very similar to the one we have with voter ID. ... We continue to have a partisan divide on this issue. It seems intractable. ... I don't believe that middle ground is there."

Democrats countered: Why did this issue have to be the first order of business? Williams claimed it was because "the integrity of the ballot box is fundamental to who we are," but Democrats pointed out that voter impersonation is so rare that it's "a solution in search of a problem." They pointed at an earlier version of the resolution as proof of the GOP's partisan motives: Originally, redistricting bills – another strongly partisan issue – were to be exempt as well. "That's another example of what is most important to you and perhaps your caucus," said **John Whitmire**, D-Houston. "You change our way of doing business around here to address those political, partisan issues." Williams said he removed redistricting from the resolution "out of deference to you."

To pursue their argument about priorities, the Democrats then tried amending the resolution on the floor: Six amendments were laid out, each requiring that, if voter ID was to be exempted from two-thirds, bills addressing more crucial issues be addressed first: foreclosures, veterans benefits, unemployment, insurance, education. If a special class of exempt bills is to be created, Watson asked as he laid out an amendment favoring children's health insurance, why not do the same for other issues? "I believe Texans would place a higher priority on the issues that have been raised in the previous ... amendments and this ... amendment above voter ID," Watson argued. All six were tabled 19-12, along party lines.

The Democrats tried other tactics. Early on, Houston's **Mario Gallegos Jr.** suggested that if in fact no rules had been established yet, "We could just walk." Later, **Eliot Shapleigh** of El Paso questioned whether any of Lt. Gov. **David Dewhurst's** rulings during those first two days of the session were even valid if the body's rules had not yet been set – i.e., who was the presiding officer? – a point of order that sent the Senate into a lengthy recess before being overruled.

The resolution finally passed, 18-13, with Dallas Republican **John Carona** bravely jumping ship – a defection, he said he was told, that might cost his own bills or even bring him a primary opponent. Although Carona said he would eventually vote in favor of voter ID, "I can't, with a straight face – and I dare say most of you, with a straight face – cannot admit to this being the most important issue of the day."

– Lee Nichols



Greening the Dome

On Jan. 15, state representatives passed House Resolution 3 (nicknamed the Housekeeping Resolution), instructing the Committee on House Administration to implement an expanded recycling program – luckily for them, one was already in the works. The State Preservation Board, which maintains several historic state buildings including the Capitol, is working on joining the Texas Facilities Commission's new Single Stream Recycling Initiative. Previously, the commission only recycled paper; now, along with secure data-destruction firm Austin Task Inc., they will start processing the same mixture of plastics, metals, and paper as Austin's own single-stream service, as well as batteries and e-waste, for any state agency (including the Capitol) using existing recycling bins. With the House apparently on board to join just such an initiative, board public information coordinator Julie Fields explained, "We're going to be able to do this really quickly!"

– Richard Whittaker

Sunsetting TYC: Will It Stick?

Close the **Texas Youth Commission** and merge it with the **Texas Juvenile Probation Commission** to form a new juvenile justice and rehabilitation agency by Sept. 1, 2010: That's the controversial recommendation handed down by the Legislature's **Sunset Advisory Commission** at its last meeting of the current review cycle. Rather than wait longer for reforms introduced last session under Senate Bill 103 to take hold, Sunset chair Rep. **Carl Isett**, R-Lubbock, told his fellow commissioners, "We need to move while the clay is still wet."

The 12-member commission met on Jan. 14 with an empty seat after Lt. Gov. **David Dewhurst** failed to appoint a replacement for former Sen. **Kim Brimer**, R-Fort Worth. Originally scheduled for the morning, the meeting was delayed while the Senate launched into a bitter rules fight. (Sen. **Craig Estes**, R-Wichita Falls, told his fellow commissioners, "As Gandalf's famous quote to the Fellowship of the Ring in Rivendell [goes], 'We were detained.'" But when quorum was reached well after 7pm, Isett reminded the commission that the TYC decision may be the biggest one they make in this review cycle.

The commission adopted a lightly modified version of Sunset staff recommendations (see "An End to TYC's Problems ... and to TYC?" Nov. 21, 2008). The bulk of the proposals – including shutting down the big rural sites at the center of 2007's abuse scandals in favor of smaller, better-equipped, and better-staffed facilities near urban centers – was adopted unanimously. But the most contentious proposal – that TYC and TJPC be integrated into one new agency, the **Texas Juvenile Justice Department** – only passed by a 6-5 majority.

No one was eager to jump to TYC's defense and claim that everything had been fixed since last session's revelations of systematic abuses. However, SB 103 author and commission member Sen. **Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa**, D-Mission, voted against abolition and again called for more time to let the reforms take hold. Rep. **Ruth Jones McClendon**, D-San Antonio, said she was not wholly opposed to considering abolition but called the proposal "premature" and feared it would take "a hatchet" to provisions for the more than 100,000 children referred to TJPC annually, when the real target for reforms was the 2,400 children in TYC.

But Isett countered that this was about looking beyond fixing TYC and establishing a new agency based on nationally recognized best practices. He argued that the

false division between the two agencies ignored their common mission of child rehabilitation and that the only real solution was "a single agency with a single board under a single executive." While he praised both TYC Executive Commissioner **Cherie Townsend** and TJPC Executive Director **Vicki Spriggs**, he held that good staff is no replacement for good systems and that only a complete structural rebuild could put the focus where it needed to be – on the kids. "We've done law and order really well, but what we haven't necessarily done well is rehabilitate and reintegrate," he said.

Although the proposal passed, the narrow margin may cause trouble for its progress through the Legislature. Of the six ayes, two came from the appointed public members (**Ike Sugg** and **Charles McMahan**), leaving the vote among legisla-

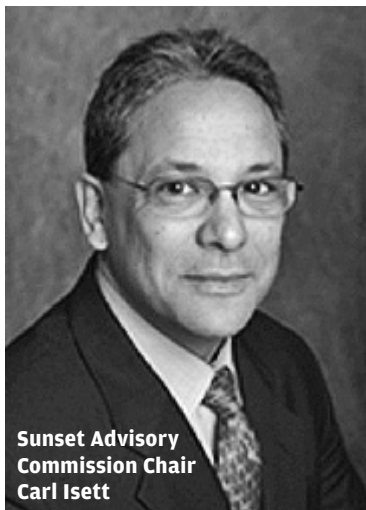
tors at two reps and two senators in favor vs. three reps and two senators against. Left hanging is the question of which way former Commissioner Brimer would have voted on the night: A 6-6 tie would have effectively scuppered the proposal, while a 7-5 majority would have made its passage easier.

Isett stressed that only a combined agency can ensure continuity of care and case management; he and other probation advocates hope that cost savings will win over fiscal conservatives and that continued funding commitments (for what vice chair Sen. **Glenn Hegar**, R-Katy, called a "probation first" policy) will reduce opposition from county commissioners.

The plan will require support from stakeholder groups such as **Texans Care for Children**. While the proposed new board structure and new inspection rules will give such groups an expanded presence, there's still resistance from such groups to moving too fast. TCC Public Policy Director **Jodie Smith** noted that "consolidation does not equal coordination" and suggested bringing TYC up for Sunset review again in 2013 (avoiding the massive review of Health Services in 2011).

Now the contentious proposal goes to the full Legislature. Both TYC and TJPC publicly opposed the merger when it was originally raised by commission staff in November, but now they must leave the issue to legislators. **Jim Hurley**, TYC's director of public affairs, explained: "We have to focus on the job in front of us. ... The rest of it, it'll go through the process, and we'll do what the Legislature asks us to do."

– Richard Whittaker



Sunset Advisory
Commission Chair
Carl Isett

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REED LOSES ANOTHER APPEAL

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on Jan. 14 again denied an appeal brought by death row inmate **Rodney Reed**, convicted of murdering 19-year-old **Stacey Stites** in Bastrop in 1996. According to the CCA opinion (unanimous but unsigned), defense evidence demonstrating that Stites' fiancé, former Georgetown Police Sgt. **Jimmy Fennell**, now in jail for assaulting a woman in his custody, had a "violent and abusive character" isn't enough to undermine Reed's conviction. In part, they say the defense hasn't demonstrated that this evidence couldn't have been discovered previously by Reed's defenders if they'd exercised "due diligence."

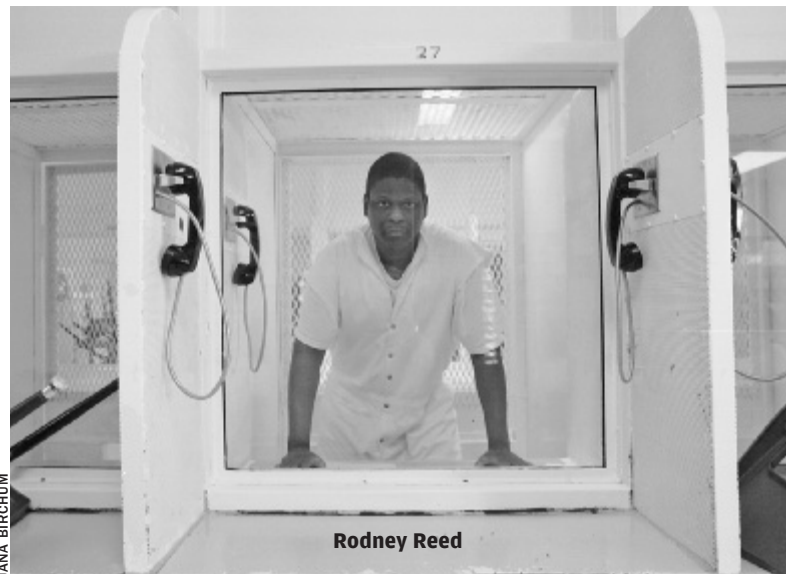
Reed was convicted and sentenced to die for murdering Stites, whose body was found dumped by the side of a county road in April 1996 after she'd failed to show up for work. DNA evidence found on Stites' body eventually led police to Reed, though no other physical evidence tied Reed to the murder, the truck, or the dump site. Reed maintains that his DNA was found on Stites because he was having a consensual sexual relationship with her – a relationship that Fennell found out about. Reed's supporters have long contended that Fennell, then a Giddings Police officer, was a far more likely suspect. (For more on the case, see "Who Killed Stacey Stites?" May 24, 2002.) Questions about Fennell's possible involvement have intensified since he pleaded guilty last September to kidnapping and improper sexual conduct with a person in his custody. He was sentenced to 10 years for those crimes.

In recent months, additional information about Fennell has made its way to Reed's defense attorneys, including **Bryce Benjet**, such as that from a woman Fennell dated shortly after Stites' murder who said in an affidavit that Fennell was "abusive, possessive, controlling, and extremely prejudiced toward African-Americans," according to Reed's appeal. When she broke it off with Fennell, he "stalked me for months," she wrote, driving by her house "night after night" and sitting, sometimes for hours, in his car outside her work. The woman

filed a complaint with the police and said that she was told the police would "make sure he left me alone." That information was never made available to Reed's attorneys at trial, Benjet argues, but would have been valuable to use to challenge Fennell's testimony that he was not controlling of Stites. Additionally, Reed's defense has taken to the court evidence that Fennell harassed another woman in 2004 – after pulling her over for a "crooked license plate," he suggested she could get out of a ticket by performing a lap dance for him – and evidence taken from a MySpace page maintained by Fennell that "contained sexually explicit and violent images."

In all, though, the court maintains that this evidence is unpersuasive in establishing that Reed might actually be innocent. It appears the court is content to dismiss the evidence against Fennell because it involves his character and behavior – both of which are clearly questionable – and because that evidence doesn't explain the DNA found on Stites that matches Reed. "[O]ther than showing that Fennell has engaged in despicable and reprehensible conduct as an officer with the Georgetown Police Department," the court wrote of the lap dance incident, "the information does not exonerate Reed of Stacey's murder."

This is the second time in a month that the CCA has denied Reed's appeals, noting each time that Reed's attorneys have filed the new evidence "piecemeal." The court has failed to note, however, that the appeals containing the new evidence have been filed in succession precisely because the court required it to be done that way. "We filed a motion asking to supplement the record, and they said, 'No, file it in another writ,'" said Benjet. So the court's attitude now is rather confounding, he said.



But more disturbing, he argues, is a larger inconsistency he finds in the court's positions on the Reed case: In its first opinion, the court said "we didn't make enough of a case against Jimmy," he said; now, with more evidence before them, the court is still saying there isn't enough. "No matter how strong a case we had against Jimmy, because there is semen in the victim," Reed must be guilty. "It's clear that no amount of evidence will ever convince them. That is the remarkable thing."

Whether that is indeed the case remains to be seen. Benjet said he will file at least one more appeal with the CCA, with more information about Fennell that was recently revealed through the Texas Department of Public Safety investigation into the kidnapping and assault case against him – including additional allegations of stalking and sexual assault. The appeal must be filed first with the CCA before the Reed case can move into federal court. – Jordan Smith

A Lesson in False Confessions

Believe it or not, innocent people do confess to crimes they did not commit – as did yogurt shop murder defendant **Michael Scott**, says lawyer, sociologist, and University of San Francisco professor **Richard Leo**, a national expert in false confessions who spoke Jan. 13 to the **Texas Criminal Justice Integrity Unit**.

More than half of all known false confessions have been provided by "mentally normal" individuals, Leo told the unit, convened last year by Court of Criminal Appeals Judge **Barbara Hervey** as a means to address problems within the state's much-maligned criminal justice system. As such, Leo said, false confession is not a phenomenon driven primarily by personality; rather, the problem often follows from police interrogation practices.

There are three main types of false confession: **voluntary confessions** (which happen most often in high-profile cases such as the yogurt shop murders, where at least 50 people confessed to the crime); **"compliant" confessions**, where an individual knowingly provides a false confession as a way to avoid stress or a "coercive environment" (as was the case with Christopher Ochoa, who confessed to the infamous Pizza Hut murder of Nancy DePriest and spent years in jail before the real killer, Achim Josef Marino, came forward); and **"persuaded false confessions"**, where an individual is led to believe, generally after hours of police interrogation, that he committed a crime. "I know this sounds crazy, but there are many documented DNA cases where this

has happened," Leo said. And this is exactly what he says happened with Scott in the yogurt shop case: "I believe [this] with every bone in my body." (As it turns out, Leo has been tapped as an expert for Scott's defense team.)

Persuaded false confessions generally involve lengthy police interrogations that begin with a suspect continually denying involvement in a crime; police often confront the individual with false evidence (saying evidence exists that doesn't), and eventually, said Leo, the "suspect says: 'How can this be? I have no memory of this.'" And often police will hit on the "amnesia explanation" to bridge the chasm. (This is particularly effective with individuals who have had drug or alcohol problems, Leo said, people who know they could black out and not remember things they'd done.) "Michael Scott is a perfect example of this," Leo concluded.

There are generally three reasons that police obtain false confessions, Leo said. They "mistakenly" judge guilt in a person (either by body language or perceived "nervousness," for example), they behave coercively, and/or they make the "contamination error," by providing too much detail to a suspect, which is later parroted back and received as if it were revelatory.

But there are ways to reduce the incidence of false confession, Leo said. The best, he said, is to require police to record all interrogations. "Because it creates an objective, comprehensive, and reviewable record," Leo said. Currently 10 states require recording of police interrogations (some in all felony cases, some only in homicide cases); Texas does not require police to record, but some departments do – including Austin Police. (Much but importantly not all of Scott's confession was recorded.) The practice does not eliminate the issue, but it offers lawyers, judges, and jurors a way to identify potential problems. Dedicating resources to better police training also helps, as does changing rules so that when judges decide whether a confession should be admitted, they emphasize its "reliability" rather than whether or not it was "voluntary," he said. But recording is the most important reform: "It preserves the truth," said Leo. "And to the extent that we're concerned about the truth ... it's the way to go."

State Sen. **Rodney Ellis**, D-Houston, has filed a bill (Senate Bill 116) that would require police departments to record their interrogations; whether the measure will get any traction remains to be seen. – J.S.

Cops and Robbers

Former Austin Police Officer **Ted Nobles** (right) was arrested and charged with the Jan. 14 robbery of a North Austin bank. Police say Nobles walked into a Compass Bank on Highway 183 and demanded money from a teller. He made off with an undisclosed sum but was later popped by police near his apartment inside a pickup truck that witnesses said they'd seen leaving the bank. Nobles left the department in 2001, amid an investigation into whether he'd stolen another officer's identity (Cmdr. **Chris Noble**), rented an apartment using the stolen ID, and then failed to pay rent.

– J. S.



Campaign Money Fattening Local Coffers

Campaign finance reports are in from candidates vying for mayor and City Council, and while unusual circumstances surrounding the mayor's race resulted in less money for this reporting period, which covered through Dec. 31, they still offer a window into the candidates' reserves of support.

MAYOR

• **Lee Leffingwell:** The council member's delayed declaration in running for mayor meant he raised no money for this election before Dec. 31, but he did declare \$6,509 in contributions through the period. A separate political action committee, Draft Lee Leffingwell for Mayor, garnered \$1,650, mainly from PAC principals such as **Ted Siff** and **Joe Pinnelli** (who each contributed the maximum amount of \$350).

• **Brewster McCracken:** The mayor pro tem is also off to a slow start, fundraising. He reported \$17,778 in contributions, \$3,078 in expenditures, and \$14,700 in cash on hand, yet without serious opponents in the race until recently, he may have felt less incentive to fundraise right out of the gate. Contributions came from UT urban management professor **Terrell Blodgett**, former Austin Downtown Commission member **Jeb Boyt** (who also contributed to Leffingwell), and developer **Larry Warshaw** and wife Paige, who together contributed \$700. McCracken has a major fundraiser scheduled at the Belmont on Jan. 28, the results of which won't be

posted until the next round of campaign finance reports, due April 9. **Josiah Ingalls**, also running for mayor, reported zero contributions and zero expenditures.

• **Carole Keeton Strayhorn:** The fundraising success story of the cycle; her special-purpose PAC, Carole for Austin, hauled in \$41,162, spending only a little more than \$140. Her contributors include several familiar old Austin dynasties: Frisco Shop proprietor **R. Harry Akin**, nephew of **Night Hawk** founder and former Mayor **Harry Akin**, donated \$350; former UT president and Chancellor **William H. Cunningham** and wife Isabella donated \$700; and the McClellan clan, including Strayhorn's sons Scott, Mark, Brad, and Dudley, gave \$2,100.

Leffingwell campaign consultant **Mark Nathan** says Leffingwell has loaned himself \$41,163 – \$1 more than Strayhorn's haul – to make up for his late start.

PLACE 1

The three-way City Council race for Leffingwell's seat is financially competitive.

• **Perla Cavazos** collected \$17,945 and has \$17,021 on hand, with contributors including her former boss, state Sen. **Eddie Lucio Jr.** (\$350); former Council Member **Jennifer Kim** (\$100); and former state Rep. **Ann Kitchen** (\$100).

• **Rick Cofer** garnered \$15,080, with \$14,090 on hand. His list of contributors includes Democrats such as **Matt Curtis** (\$350), former congressional candidate **Larry Joe Doherty** (\$350), and former state Rep. **Glen Maxey** (\$200).

• **Chris Riley** broke out of the Place 1 pack, collecting \$26,090, with \$23,959 left after expenditures. Contributions included \$700 from the Jeb Boyt household, \$700 from developer **Perry Lorenz** and wife Sheridan, and \$350 from Ted Siff.

THE OTHERS

• **Bill Spelman**, running thus far unopposed for the Place 5 seat now held by McCracken, reported \$11,321 raised and \$10,327 in cash on hand, with contributions coming from attorney **Fred Lewis** (\$350), the Lorenz household (\$700), and consultant and former Council Member **Brigid Shea** (\$200).

• **Mike Martinez**, the Place 2 incumbent who's yet to draw a challenger in his re-election bid, reports raising \$22,476, leaving him with \$24,575 on hand and \$26,100 in outstanding loans. He lists seven "bundlers" – people who have the political muscle to raise money on a candidate's behalf – including attorneys **Richard Suttle** and **David Armbrust** and engineer consultant **Karen Friese**.

• **Sheryl Cole**, facing nominal opposition in Place 6 from **Sam Osemene** (who didn't file), has \$28,420 in contributions, \$21,649 on hand, and \$45,000 in outstanding loans. Her bundlers include attorney and **Real Estate Council of Austin** Executive Committee Member **Nikelle Meade** and engineer **Brian Reis**.

– Wells Dunbar

'THE GOOD LIFE' SAYS GOODBYE

The Good Life, a monthly community magazine, has fallen victim to a cash-strapped economy. Publisher **Rebecca Melançon** and Editor **Ken Martin** announced last week that the free publication's January issue would be its last and that its online presence – which had recently undergone a long-overdue upgrade – would ultimately cease as well. The husband-and-wife publishing team started *The Good Life* more than 11 years ago, specifically targeting an audience of aging baby boomers bent on living life to the fullest. As such, the progressive-leaning magazine focused its content on consumer and health-care issues, local political debates, and profiles on Austin personalities. **Craig McDonald**, executive director of the watchdog group **Texans for Public Justice**, had the sad distinction of appearing on the cover of *The Good Life*'s final issue.

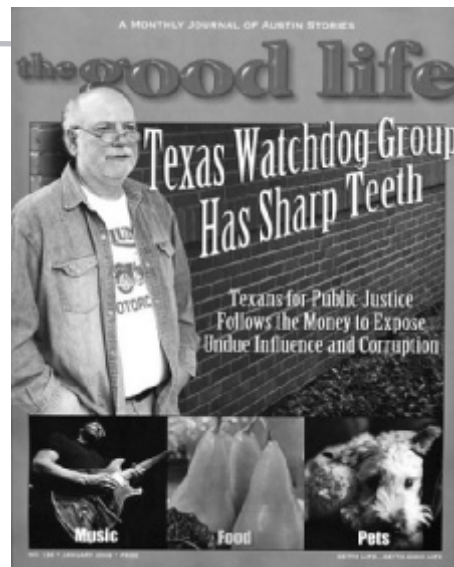
The magazine, like most publishing outfits with modest budgets, survived by dint of hard work, a committed force of local advertisers, and a small but loyal base of readers. The monthly's extended family included long-

time contributors who were willing to work for peanuts, such as writer/activist **Kathy Mitchell** and the photography duo of **Barton Wilder**.

"*The Good Life* has always been a labor of love as much as a business," Melançon wrote in a farewell letter to the magazine's advertisers and supporters. "Now the current economic conditions make it impossible for us to continue."

Melançon and Martin have a long publishing history in Austin. They served as publisher and editor, respectively, of the **Austin Business Journal**, until the weekly's acquisition by American City Business Journals Inc., in the early Nineties. American City fired the couple almost immediately after the purchase. They then launched **In Fact Daily**, an online publication covering the day-to-day maneuverings at City Hall, now owned by Jo Clifton.

Asked if the couple had any immediate plans for a new venture, Melançon replied by e-mail: "Our entrepreneurial spirit is a little bruised right now so our agenda (or at least mine) is serious margarita therapy for at



least a week!" She added, "I have been blown away by the warm and heartfelt good wishes we have received" since announcing the publication's closure. "For all those times I thought 'is anyone out there reading this stuff?' they were and they loved *Good Life* as much as we did."

– Amy Smith

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KXAN Bucks the Wave: Covers the News

BY KEVIN BRASS

Over the years a long list of once-common features has disappeared from local TV news, staples of the business that faded into the oblivion of a different era. Local documentaries, on-set commentaries, feature reporters, and cartoonish sports announcers are among the long forgotten dinosaurs, quaint reminders of a distant past when television news was a more creative enterprise. Technology has brought infinite ways for stations to report that it's raining outside, but in terms of programming, something more has definitely been lost.

Among the casualties is the weekly "issues" talk show, the opportunity for stern TV news professionals to address the local dramas of the day with sweaty local bureaucrats and policy wonks. They used to gather on poorly lit sets with camera operators of questionable skills and banter for half an hour about sewage rates and county elections, in many cases providing viewers with their only chance to hear "news makers" speak outside the usual 12-second sound bites.

These days the weekly talk show is a mountain too high for most local TV news operations. Not long after the government lifted requirements for public affairs programming, the network affiliates dropped the shows, preferring to devote late-night and early morning hours to infomercials for really cool hamburger grills and can't-miss real estate sales opportunities.

In that context, **KXAN's** new weekly half-hour show devoted to the Legislature is a radical move. It's one of a kind, a trailblazer. The station will actually focus a half hour every Sunday morning, from 9:30 to 10am, to **Session '09 In-Depth**, featuring interviews and roundtable discussions.

At its basic level, the station is simply setting aside a half hour of its usual Sunday morning news hour for Lege talk. The show itself is typically dorky, featuring anchor **Jenny Hoff** breathlessly asking questions of legislators, followed by a panel discussion with Lege wonks such as **Ross Ramsey**, the editor of *Texas Weekly*. And Hoff is not exactly a probing interviewer. Last Sunday she asked Gov. **Rick Perry**, "What's your take?" on the economy – then she let him give an uninterrupted campaign speech for almost three minutes.

But at least KXAN is trying. Rival **KVUE's** idea of a weekly Sunday morning Lege segment is "Sundays With the Senator," which consists of a few minutes of Sen. **Kirk Watson** offering his "take" on recent events. (Sample interrogation from KVUE reporter **Elise Hu**: "Tell us what happened

this week.") And CBS affiliate **KEYE** prepared for the legislative session by laying off veteran political reporter **Keith Elkins**.

KXAN's baby-steps effort bucks the trend: actually upgrading on-air Lege coverage at a time when most media organizations are slashing their Capitol presence. Most recently the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* cut its Austin bureau from four people to one. And public station KLRU could no longer muster support for *Special Sessions*, **Paul Stekler's** award-winning show covering the Legislature, which vanished this session. ("Just too hard to find funding for it," Stekler said in an e-mail to the *Chronicle's* Lee Nichols.)

In addition to the half hour focused on the Lege, last week KXAN added longtime Austin-based *Dallas Morning News* reporter **Karen Brooks** as executive producer of its online

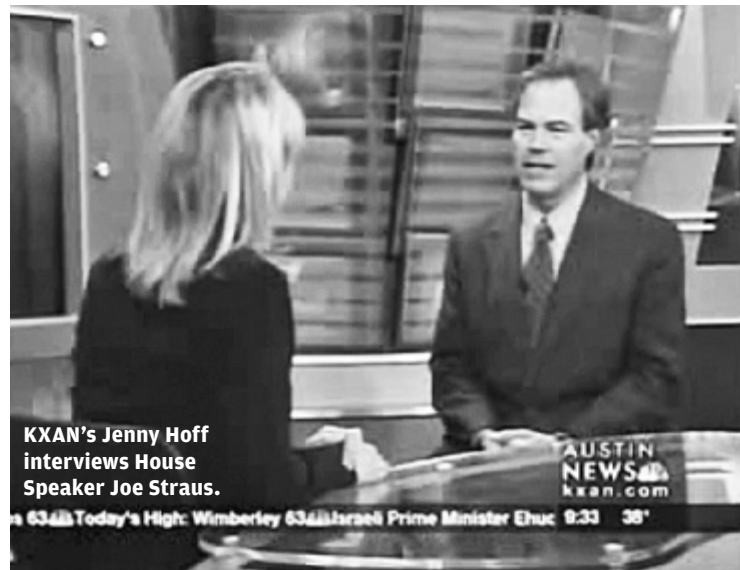
efforts. Brooks is a Lege veteran and a fine reporter who should help bulk up the increasingly competitive online Capitol coverage. Hoff, KVUE's Hu, and the *Austin American-Statesman* and *Austin Chronicle* reporters are all maintaining a steady stream of Lege trivia on their blogs. (For the record, Brooks says she didn't leave *The Dallas Morning News* out of fear of the paper cutting the bureau, but she did add, "You never know what's going to happen around the corner.")

KXAN is focused on making its website a competitive entity, according to station General Manager **Eric Lassberg**. But it's less committed to the idea of a Sunday talk show. There are no plans to continue the current format after the legislative session, Lassberg says. The program will have to attract a decent rating, or the station will likely return the half hour to its usual format of an anchor reading news stories and updated weather reports. "We're just trying to get innovative and see if something will stick," Lassberg said. "If anybody has a shot at it, we feel we have a shot at it in the half hour before *Meet the Press*."

Meanwhile, the other stations are sticking with infomercials.

WHAT IF THEY KILLED YOUR TV, AND NOBODY NOTICED?

Turns out the **digital TV transformation** is turning into a huge cluster hump. Who would have guessed?



A coupon program to help offset the cost of converter boxes ran out of money weeks ago, long before the Feb. 17 deadline, exactly as consumer advocates said it would. And concerns linger that the people most likely to be affected – the poor and elderly – are the least likely to know anything about the program. Now the incoming Obama administration is calling for a delay in the deadline for implementing the switch, a move sure to wreak havoc.

"I don't know if they should delay it or not," said **Rondella Hawkins**, telecommunications and regulatory affairs manager for the city of Austin. "If they delay it, people will just put off what they should have been doing for the last year."

The city has been staging regular community meetings on the digital switch, augmenting relentless campaigns sponsored by broadcasters and the federal government. For the past year, consumers have been inundated with text crawls, infomercials, and TV news features explaining the transition, which affects only people who don't subscribe to cable or digital services and who don't own a digital TV.

"I have a real sense that people are informed," Hawkins said. "Everybody is aware of it." But it could be that people simply don't care. The city's community meetings typically draw about five people, Hawkins said.

Execution Extravaganza 2009

The Texas death machine already has a busy schedule for 2009. On Jan. 14, the state executed the first inmate of the year, **Curtis Moore**, convicted of killing three people and leaving another horribly burned during a string of robberies in 1995. Moore's execution was stayed once, in 2002, so courts could consider whether he was mentally retarded; the U.S. Supreme Court ultimately denied his appeal, clearing the way for his execution. The Board of Pardons and Paroles also rejected his bid for clemency. At press time, the execution of **Frank Moore** (no relation), convicted of the 1994 shooting of two men outside a San Antonio nightclub, was pending. Four more executions are scheduled for January alone; in all, 14 are scheduled through April 7. Amnesty International USA criticizes Texas as out of step with the rest of the country and a sign that state officials are ignoring the ongoing problems within the criminal justice system. "At a time when the country – including Texas – is opening its eyes to the problems that plague capital punishment, Governor [Rick] Perry has chosen to remain blind to its flaws, further tarnishing Texas' human rights reputation," said Amnesty International USA Executive Director Larry Cox.



Frank Moore

– J. S.

TALK FIRST BATTLES RISE IN TEEN PREGNANCY

On Jan. 16, Austin's **Planned Parenthood** launched **Talk First**, a new parent-education program featuring free hourlong workshop sessions in which groups of eight or more parents learn how to talk with their kids about sex.

According to research conducted by the family-planning group, kids actually prefer to learn about sex from their parents – without sex education, says Planned Parenthood, kids are left to gather information about sex on their own, and that can lead to inaccurate information. To illustrate the dangers of leaving sex education off the table, local Planned Parenthood officials unveiled their own Top 10 list of bad information parents tell kids, including

that "the stork brings babies."

The risks in not educating children about sex "are high," said **Ken Lambrecht**, president of Planned Parenthood of the Texas Capital Region, "and parents can make a difference."

According to a new report from the **Centers for Disease Control**, the teen birthrate climbed in 2006, reversing a 14-year decline – among the states with the highest teen birthrate, Texas is in third place (behind only Mississippi and New Mexico), with 63.1 births per 1,000 teen girls. Moreover, according to the CDC, incidences of sexually transmitted infections – specifically syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhea – are also on the rise. After years of decline – that is, consis-

tent decline since 1941 – the incidence of syphilis has been on a near-steady rise since 2001. Texas ranks ninth in the number of reported syphilis cases.

There is, of course, one decent way to buck the disturbing upward trends: comprehensive sex education. "These reports are further evidence of the need for medically accurate, age-appropriate, comprehensive sex education," said **Cecile Richards**, Planned Parenthood Federation of America president. "Abstinence-only programs have failed to teach young people how to prevent unintended pregnancy and [STIs]."

For more info about the new Talk First program, go to www.ppaustin.org.

– Jordan Smith

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Ill Will

DEA torpedoes work toward FDA-approved marijuana

BY JORDAN SMITH

Back in February 2007, **medi-pot** advocates were feeling optimistic that access to research-grade pot for use in **Food and Drug Administration**-approved studies might soon be opening up – and for good reason. That month, Administrative Law Judge Mary Ellen Bittner ruled in favor of allowing University of Massachusetts-Amherst professor **Lyle Craker** to begin growing a new crop of pot that would be available for research into the medicinal value of marijuana, with the ultimate goal of developing an FDA-approved medi-pot.

Craker initially applied to the **Drug Enforcement Administration** for permission to grow the test crop in 2001. After three years of bureaucratic delays, the agency concluded in 2004 that Craker's request should be denied. Craker, backed by the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (a research outfit that aims to develop government-approved prescription drugs from controlled substances such as LSD, MDMA or Ecstasy, and pot), appealed that decision, which was heard by Bittner during nine days of testimony spread out over two months in 2005. A year and a half later, Bittner weighed in, agreeing that Craker should be granted permission to grow.

That pleased medi-pot advocates but wasn't the end of the story. Bittner's findings were nonbinding, so it would ultimately fall to DEA administrators to decide whether to accept her conclusions. On Jan. 7, Michele Leonhart, a DEA deputy administrator, finally weighed in on the matter, rejected Bittner's

conclusions, and again denied Craker's application. Craker said the DEA decision was a "disappointment," but, "I don't think we need to be surprised" by it.

In a 118-page rejection letter, Leonhart concludes that Craker's bid to grow research pot is "precluded under Federal law," because, among other related reasons, he was unable to demonstrate to the agency that an additional source of research marijuana was actually needed to meet demand.

(Read the DEA's rejection letter with this story at austinchronicle.com.) Indeed, since 1968, the University of Mississippi has held the only contract to grow pot for government-approved purposes – including providing pot for remaining participants of a federal medi-pot study group and for research approved by the **National Institute on Drug Abuse** (part of the National Institutes of Health), which actually doles out the dope to researchers. The arrangement means the dope is essentially under

constant control of the feds, which is what is called for under the United Nations' Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, to which the U.S. is a party.

Moreover, Leonhart writes in her opinion that no one much has complained about the quantity or quality of the Ole Miss dope and notes that as of 2005, the university had under its control some 1,055 kilograms (2,326 pounds) of the stuff in storage. In fact, she writes, there's so much in reserve that they haven't actually had to cultivate any



University of Massachusetts professor Lyle Craker

reefer
madness



C.L. IPART

new dope since 1997. "For the reasons indicated above, I have determined that [Craker's] proposed registration [to grow] is inconsistent with United States obligations under the Single Convention and with the public interest," Leonhart concluded.

While the DEA may not see a need to grow additional pot for research, Craker, head of the UMass **Medicinal Plant Program**; Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies founder and President Rick Doblin; at least 47 members of Congress (including Massachusetts Sens. **John Kerry** and **Ted Kennedy**); and a broad swath of public health organizations – including the Lymphoma Foundation of America, the National Association for Public Health Policy, the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, and the California Medical Association – disagree. Despite what the DEA thinks, the product provided by the University of Mississippi is inconsistent in quality, and the manner by which the government determines who will get pot for research is confounding. "We believe that marijuana should be treated like any other potential therapeutic medicine, with researchers having the ability to obtain it and test it, within federally-approved scientific research protocols," Dr. Jack Lewin, former CEO of the California Medical Association, wrote in a 2005 letter of support for Craker. "To date, it has generally not been treated that way, causing significant problems in the research into

marijuana as a potential medicine. It is in the public interest to allow the scientific process to determine whether marijuana should be available as a medicine for sick patients who may need it, and DEA licensing of appropriate and qualified researchers is crucial to facilitate that process."

Craker finds the entire process frustrating. On one hand, the government remains skeptical about medical marijuana until solid research can prove otherwise, yet it continues putting up roadblocks to prevent progress on that front. "If there is no medical benefit [from marijuana], then it would be to [the government's] advantage to have it tested," Craker told the *Chronicle*.

Allen Hopper, the litigation director for the ACLU's **Drug Law Reform Project**, which is representing Craker, said the attorneys are still reviewing the DEA decision. Whether they will now appeal the decision directly to the U.S. appeals court for the District of Columbia circuit or will seek additional review within the DEA has not been decided. Hopper said that in her decision, Leonhart raises "evidence" never addressed in the hearings with Bittner, which may need to be addressed with the agency before moving the case to the federal court.

As frustrating as the entire experience has been, Craker vows not to give up: "The struggle is still in its beginning stages."

Swimming in Controversy The Heimlich maneuvers

Dr. **John Hunsucker** isn't a medical doctor – he's a professor emeritus of engineering and math at the University of Houston, where he's taught for three decades. Nevertheless, he's made saving lives his business. He won't even talk to reporters anymore unless they can offer proof of their own death-defying capabilities. "I'll talk to you if you can tell me how it's going to save a life," he repeated to this reporter no less than half a dozen times when he was in Austin earlier this month. Hunsucker's company, **National Aquatic Safety Co.**, held its annual international conference and training school at the University of Texas Jan. 7-10. NASCO, which Hunsucker runs out of his home in Dickinson, is a risk-management company that consults with water parks on matters of safety and runs the third-largest lifeguard-certification program for water parks in the U.S.

Hunsucker does have a specific reason to dislike reporters. Last October, a *Houston Press* cover story by Todd Spivak ("Fighting for Air: Drowning and the Heimlich Maneuver") recounted a bitter controversy in lifeguarding circles, with

Hunsucker treading water in the center of it. NASCO's life-guard-training program teaches the use of the Heimlich maneuver – or abdominal thrusts – on drowning victims. The logic is that the thrusts force water out of the lungs, clearing the way for air. Sounds reasonable, but a host of experts condemn the technique, arguing that, among other things, abdominal thrusts increase the risk of vomiting leading to aspiration of that vomit. Administering CPR immediately, they insist, remains the best way to save a life. Austin officials seem to agree; city of Austin lifeguards undergo Red Cross lifeguard training, and Schlitterbahn New Braunfels lifeguards are trained by NASCO competitor Jeff Ellis & Associates. Neither the Red Cross nor Ellis advocates abdominal thrusts for drowning victims.

In our noninterview, Hunsucker defended his record. Since the company's inception in 1974, he says, only one life has been lost during a rescue attempt by a NASCO-trained lifeguard.

In an incestuous twist, the *Houston Press* might never have heard of the Heimlich maneuver controversy if it

weren't for one **Peter Heimlich**, son of **Henry Heimlich**, for whom the technique is named. For years the younger Heimlich has aggressively and publicly criticized his father's work. It all began with a family disagreement, he says, refusing to elaborate. (The elder Heimlich is 88 and lives in Cincinnati.)

"My father's a celebrity doctor who has been the subject of hundreds of stories, so I started pulling old articles," Peter told me in an e-mail. "I quickly realized we'd turned up something serious, especially the 30-year promotion of the Heimlich maneuver for drowning rescue. Our research uncovered that my father fabricated case reports to promote his mad idea, which has been associated with the deaths of dozens of kids. I thought it was important to spread the word because I didn't want any more dead kids."

Henry Heimlich doesn't respond directly to his son, but his spokesman told the *Houston Press* that Peter's charges are false, describing the dispute as a "tragic family matter."

– Laurel Chesky

the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

WHY THE HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT IS SO BELOVED

Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano is moving to Washington to become head of the Department of Homeland Security in the Obama administration, and I sure hope she's bringing a load of two things this humongous agency totally lacks: common sense and common decency.

Homeland Security is in charge of building the ridiculous and absurdly expensive 40-foot-high wall that our government is erecting along the U.S. border with Mexico. The very idea of this divisive wall is offensive to the people who live in U.S. border towns, but the insufferable arrogance of the agency has made the wall's offensiveness explosive.

The department's charm was on glaring display just before Christmas, when it sued the Nature Conservancy to condemn land near Brownsville for the project. The Nature Conservancy owns and runs a unique 1,000-acre preserve along the Rio Grande, and the federal wall builders wanted to take a 60-foot-wide strip from the preserve – amounting to about 8 acres.

Why fuss over 8 acres? Well, you'd assume that the wall would be going up on the actual border, but no. They want to build this section a mile-and-a-half from the border, thus putting three-fourths of the preserve in a no-man's land between the wall and Mexico. The most critical part of the wildlife habitat, and even the home of the preserve's manager, would be cut off by the wall, effectively destroying the park, which is home to two kinds of endangered wildcats and a rare palm forest.

A decade ago, the Nature Conservancy paid \$2.6 million to buy this gem, yet Homeland Security now insists that it should pay only \$114,000 as "fair compensation" for the 60-foot stretch it intends to take from the center of the preserve. It's this kind of swaggering lunacy that has made the agency so beloved. Good luck to Napolitano.

PUT SOME BITE IN OUR FINANCIAL WATCHDOGS

After Bernard Madoff confessed to looting some \$50 billion from investors in a wide-spread Ponzi scheme, a Democratic member of Congress complained that this huge fraud "fell through the cracks of our regulatory system."

Indeed it did, but let's be honest – there are now more "cracks" than "system" in America's regulatory apparatus.

In the past decade, credible evidence of Madoff's theft had been brought numerous times to the Securities and Exchange Commission, which is supposed to be the watchdog against financial fraud. Yet the SEC conducted only one cursory investigation, exonerating him based on data that Madoff himself so helpfully gave to the agency. Indeed, Madoff even served on various SEC advisory committees while he was going about his dirty business!

His case is no anomaly. It's the SEC, after all, that offered not so much as a bark while the biggest firms on Wall Street built their own Ponzi schemes on flimsy sub-prime mortgage scams, leading to today's economic crash and massive bank bailouts.

None of this is accidental. Under both George Bush and Bill Clinton, there has been a deliberate, fantasy-based defanging of our public watchdog. "Free Wall Street hucksters from the yoke of regulation," was the ridiculous political demand, and Washington meekly complied.

SEC's enforcement budget was slashed, fraud investigators were neutered, and bankers came to be treated as the agency's "customers." In 2000, the once-proud SEC prosecuted 69 cases of securities fraud; in 2007, it prosecuted nine.

Good regulation has to have real bite to it. Barack Obama promises to put some teeth back in our watchdog, but he can't do it alone, for Wall Street lobbyists are already swarming Washington to stop real change. To help push them back, contact OMB Watch at www.ombwatch.org.

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown – visit www.jimhightower.com. You can hear his radio commentaries on KOOP Radio, 91.7FM, weekdays at 10:58am and 12:58pm.

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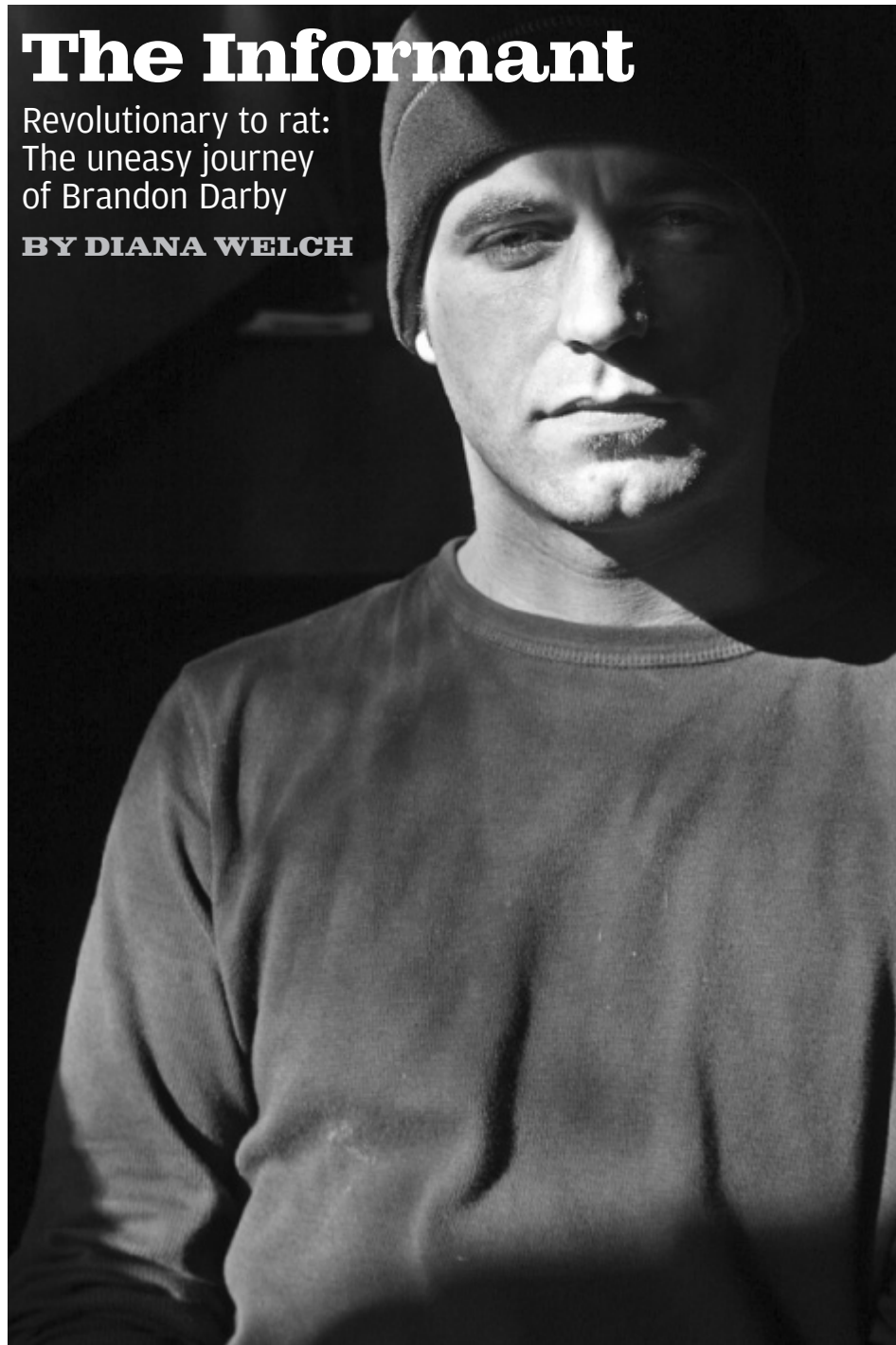
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The Informant

Revolutionary to rat:
The uneasy journey
of Brandon Darby

BY DIANA WELCH



JANA BIRCHUM

Last year on Aug. 28, eight Austin activists traveled north in a rented white van to join thousands of protesters in St. Paul, Minn., for the Republican National Convention. In the trailer behind them were shields homemade from traffic barrels – cut in half, painted black, and fitted with Plexiglas windows. The shields mimic police riot gear and are often used in “black blocs,” a method of street protesting with origins in Germany that became prominent stateside at the 1999 Seattle World Trade Organization protests, during which a black bloc caused property damage to various businesses. The black bloc is the punk rock version of protest, and its alluring combination of direct action and danger similarly attracts mostly young, white men.

On Aug. 31, a couple of days after the group’s arrival in Minnesota, St. Paul police

searched the trailer without a warrant and seized the shields. The next day, two of the van’s passengers, David McKay, 22, and Bradley Crowder, 23, were arrested for disorderly conduct. McKay was released later that day, but Crowder remained in jail. According to a subsequent police affidavit, McKay met the next day with fellow activist Brandon Michael Darby, 32, who had also traveled to St. Paul with the Austin group. Angry that his friend was still being held, McKay told Darby that he and Crowder had made some Molotov cocktails (i.e., bottled gasoline bombs) and that he was planning on throwing them at cop cars parked in a parking lot.

According to the partial transcript in the affidavit, Darby asked McKay, “What if there’s a cop sleeping in the car?” “He’ll wake up,” replied McKay. “What if he doesn’t?” Darby

asked. McKay was silent. Darby pressed on, asking McKay if he would “leave the scene with a cop burning or dying.” McKay answered, “Yes.” And then, again, according to a partial transcript of the recorded conversation, McKay told Darby that it was “worth it if a cop gets burned or maimed.” These words, along with eight Molotov cocktails found in the basement of the house in which McKay was crashing, have him facing up to 30 years in federal prison for charges related to possession and assembly of “unregistered firearms,” as the weapons are defined by federal law.

McKay did not know that his words to Darby, spoken in a moment of foolish hot-headedness that his friends say he is known for, were being transmitted to agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation via electronic surveillance gear that Darby had hidden out of sight. Nor did he know that Darby had supplied the FBI with the information that led to the seizure of the homemade riot gear. Moreover, Darby had already told the feds that, in retaliation for the cops’ apparently illegal bust, the group had gone to Wal-Mart with a shopping list that might have supplied a touring Roller Derby team – elbow pads, gas cans, bike helmets, motor oil, tampons – but included also the potential fixings for some Molotov cocktails. The youths’ recklessness, as well as their implicit trust in Darby, had led them into a police trap.

Darby seems a typical Austin lefty, who had also acquired a considerable national reputation as a valiant and committed community activist, especially in New Orleans.

Who Is Brandon Darby?

At first glance, Brandon Michael Darby seems a typical Austin lefty activist. He entered Austin’s radical progressive scene nearly a decade ago; through a former activist girlfriend, he became involved in a variety of small groups engaged in progressive projects: getting dirty drug needles off the streets, innocent prisoners out of jail, and recent immigrants into stable homes. He’s a boyishly handsome guy, in good shape from martial arts training, and he currently lives on several acres of farmland beyond the city limits, where he keeps chickens and a pig. He says he’s planning on getting a goat and has a “massive compost operation” going. He talks excitedly about making his home more sustainable and about the impending installation of a solar water heater. He collects rainwater for the garden and is restoring an old house.

Darby’s now employed as a legal and investigative assistant for an attorney, work that he feels good about because, he says, his employer doesn’t buy in to the whole “how much justice can you afford” system and does a lot of pro bono work. He recently became a father, to 9-month-old Olivia, and though he and Olivia’s mother don’t live together, he says that they are “co-parenting.” All in all, a contemporary portrait in progressive rationality and sustainable ambitions.

Prior to his latest incarnation, Darby had also acquired a considerable national reputation as a valiant and committed community activist, especially in New Orleans. There, initially in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, he had helped rescue stranded residents and rebuild housing and had been centrally involved in the work of the Common Ground Relief – a community effort focused on restoring neighborhoods, defending residents’ rights, and trying to rebuild the community from the ground up. Darby was featured in national interviews about post-hurricane New Orleans and more particularly had a reputation for defying authority and especially cops – not necessarily the profile of a potential police informant.

But ask around Austin activist circles, and a more contradictory portrait emerges. Several local activists describe Darby as a troubled, paranoid man with a volatile history with women, a penchant for violent rhetoric, and a strong authoritarian streak. At best, Darby might be just an ordinary and confused young person, fired with generalized idealism and stumbling through this world on his own tangled, misguided mission to save it. But at worst, he might have been – might have become over the last several years – a manipulator with a hero complex, bent on inflating his own self-importance in the comfortable guise of moral superiority.

Finding Common Ground

For much of 2006, Darby was heavily involved with Common Ground Relief, the post-Katrina recovery effort that has gained national attention for its endeavors. Darby himself came to national attention when he and one of Common Ground Relief’s founding members, Scott Crow, the prominent anarchist community organizer behind a host of Austin organizations including Radical Encuentro Camp, Ecology Action, and Treasure City Thrift, traveled to New Orleans right after the levees broke in search of their friend Robert “King” Wilkerson, who had stayed in his home to weather out the storm.

Crow’s detailed account of the apocalyptic journey, “It Takes a Spark to Start a Prairie Fire: Desperation, Racism and the Beginnings of Common Ground Relief,” can be read in full at Infoshop News (news.infoshop.org). (Crow’s book, *Black Flags and Windmills: Anarchy, Hope and Common Ground*, which also recounts the episode, comes out this year.) Their first effort failed, but the two friends decided to try again when they got a call from Malik Rahim, a former Black Panther, community organizer, and childhood friend of King’s, who reported that his neighborhood, Algiers, was being patrolled by white militias harassing unarmed black residents. The men set out once again, this time

determined to bring supplies and aid to Rahim and to bring King back to Austin.

It was on this second trip that Rahim and Crow planted the seeds for Common Ground Relief using, Crow writes, "a strategy mixed from the Black Panther survival programs, the current work in Chiapas, Mexico of the Zapatistas and good old community organizing." It was also when Darby made national headlines by taking a dip into the dreaded "toxic sludge," a gnarly mix of industrial waste, waterlogged carcasses, and other nastiness, to find King. Crow writes: "Brandon called me one last time before he dropped into the dark water, and Malik and I told him we would come looking for him if he didn't return. He started swimming with his phone held in the air, and he made good progress alternating between wading and swimming, trying to keep the water out of his mouth." Federal Emergency Management Agency agents spotted Darby and ordered him out of the water, but he would not do so until they dispatched a boat to find and retrieve King; a hero's welcome awaited Darby when he and King returned to Rahim's home. After celebrating the reunion, everyone went to work, doing what they could to put the world right again.

Though he refuses to give a start date, Darby says he's been working with the FBI for less than two years. Some who worked with him are frankly suspicious of something much larger and more sinister.

At the time of Common Ground's inception, the mood in New Orleans was tense. The U.S. government had completely failed the community, all the proof that most people needed that the system wasn't working. Revolution was in the air, and Common Ground was at the forefront of envisioning a potential new world. In that heady atmosphere, Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez offered the group monetary relief in the form of Citgo gas cards, and Common Ground sent a delegation, including Darby, to Caracas. On pirate radio, Crow described Common Ground as "a paramilitary organization" – a statement for which he was criticized within the group. But given the atmosphere of chaos and devastation and uncertainty, people behaved in ways they normally would not.

As for Darby, those who were involved in Common Ground describe him as a simultaneously dynamic and divisive character, with an authoritarian streak that the mostly anarcho-hippie crowd didn't care for. One

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These activists believe Brandon Darby reported on their activities to the FBI. Those interviewed for this story include Scott Crow (back, center). Next to Crow is Ann Harkness. Simon Evans is back row, far right, and Lisa Fithian stands in front of Evans.

JANA BIRCHUM

volunteer coordinator who worked with Common Ground from January to July 2006 recounted a disturbing episode: A couple of volunteers called back to headquarters concerned they were about to get jumped, and Darby leaped into his truck to save the day – reportedly by firing his gun into the air in the middle of the street. “It just seemed like an unnecessarily violent escalation,” she recalled. “Everything I heard about Brandon Darby during my time at Common Ground was that he was crazy, and what I witnessed was that he was very prominent and very divisive. He’d come into town and everybody would be whispering, like: ‘Oh, shit. Brandon Darby’s back.’”

Darby explains the perception of him as authoritarian this way: “For some, Common Ground might have been about creating a little anarchist utopia. For me, it was about helping people have their rights heard and have their homes [restored], and it was about getting things done.” Darby also denies that he has ever discharged a firearm anywhere in the state of Louisiana.

“I know that Brandon has been trained in firearm safety, and I just don’t see him doing that,” says Andy Gallagher, a New Orleans resident who’s known Darby since he was 18 and who has lived with him in the past. “In all honesty, there have been situations that I have witnessed where Brandon has had a gun on hand and used it [in] a way that actually de-escalated the situation and protected the lives [of those] who were with him.” Though Gallagher wasn’t involved with Common Ground, he was in town at the time doing his own aid work – locating displaced foster children – and would often visit Darby.

Another prominent organizer of the Common Ground effort was Lisa Fithian, who says she has never gotten along with Darby. “He was a leader of the organization, though, and

because of that, he was able to set some patterns in motion that I believe led to systemic issues of sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and violence,” she says. “He kicked the door down of a women’s center at 2am to throw a guy out; he kicked in the door of a trailer where there were volunteers with guns on them. He did a lot of Wild West shit – Mister Macho Action Hero.”

Darby responds that this portrait is both inaccurate and unfair. “We were in an aggressive situation that was frightening; we felt like it was the end of the world,” he explains. “So if there is a man living in a women’s center illegally, against the wishes of the women in the center, and all of the women exit that center, leaving that one guy who barricades himself in and is pissing and pooping on the floor, I think it’s totally fine to kick down the door. But really, if I was so bad, why was I the spokesperson for Common Ground Relief for so long?” Darby asks. “Why, after 2006, did they have me come back and ask me to direct the organization and be the spokesperson again?”

In retrospect, Darby’s friend Crow adds his own doubts. “He inserted himself as ‘co-founder’; he wanted that status, even as people were getting written out of the Common Ground history, people who did a lot of work organizing. He also made sure that the media followed him extensively and didn’t interview other people when he was director and also when he was just another person around,” insists Crow. “If you look at the way Brandon tells it, he did the whole Lower 9th Ward with one hand tied behind his back, when really there were a lot of people who did the work, and the organizing too, who you’ll never hear about because of

Brandon’s monopoly on the media. So, did he do that just because he’s crazy, or did he do that to get more credibility for himself so that he could gather more information?”

Bad Intentions

Malik Rahim now fervently believes that Darby was an informant for at least part of the time he worked for Common Ground, a conclusion he describes as heart-breaking. “Look, Brandon and Scott brought weapons to my house to help me defend my home,” he says. “So my first feeling for both of them was love.” But that love, Rahim laments, soon turned to blind defense of someone with whom many in the organization, including his own family members, had problems. “It came to the degree that my son just knew that there was something too wrong with

Brandon, and he searched Brandon’s possessions, because he said, ‘This guy is an agent, or he is an informant,’” Rahim recalls. “And, let me tell you, it caused a rift between my son and I, so much so that eventually, he left. Because I believed Brandon. I defended him.”

Rahim believes that something happened to Darby while he was in Venezuela and that it was then that he became an informant, because that is when Rahim now sees that Darby began to impede the group’s progress. “I think that Brandon had a nervous breakdown in Venezuela

and that when he came back he was messed up in the head,” Rahim explains. “At the very beginning, he was helpful, but after Venezuela, he became

harmful. ... He did everything he could to destroy St. Mary’s, which was where we were housing the majority of our volunteers, by letting a bunch of crackheads move in there. And he also drove a wedge between me and Lisa Fithian and eventually caused her to leave, too. He was doing everything you’re supposed to do as a government agent in that situation. Divide and conquer.”

What Rahim considers sabotage and what Fithian calls patriarchal power plays Darby just sees as trying to do something good in a bad situation. Though he disagrees that his adamant refusal to turn people away from St. Mary’s was harmful, he agrees that something bad really did happen to him in Venezuela and that he came back a changed man. “I probably should have left New Orleans at that point and come back to Austin and gone to therapy. But I didn’t. I stayed,” he says. “I didn’t want to be there, but I thought I should have been there. Maybe that was my biggest mistake.” While in Venezuela, Darby says, he

was informed by “someone in the Venezuelan government” that what he was doing – essentially seeking funds from the Chávez administration to undermine the Bush administration – was illegal. Darby freaked out and says that at times he was frightened for his life. He thought he might be arrested when he returned to the States, and he was angry that he had been put in that position by Common Ground, particularly Crow and Fithian. But he swears, again and again, that he was never working for the federal government while in New Orleans. Not ever.

Though he refuses to give a start date, Darby says he’s been working with the FBI for less than two years. FBI documents have him making phone calls to the bureau beginning in November 2007. Though he still describes himself as a lefty and says he’s “the furthest thing from a Republican,” it was protecting the rights of Republicans, he says, that finally persuaded him to work with the feds. “One morning, I woke up and realized that I disagree with the group I was associating with as much as I disagree with the Republican Party,” he recalls. “I began to feel that a small select group of people had bad intentions, and I felt the need to do something about it.”

The relationship began with a call to a cop that Darby knows in another city, because, he says, there was a situation that needed to be reported. He told that person what his concerns were, and that cop gave him the name of a federal agent. Darby says he met with some federal agents, told them what he had to say, and left. The agent later contacted him again, they had what Darby says was a “good conversation,” and over the course of a few months, Darby agreed to go undercover. Though he won’t say what it was exactly that made him make that initial call, he will say this about the eventual decision to go undercover: “My deal was with a small group of people whom I personally wouldn’t call terrorists but whose views and ideologies, in addition to their actions, are a little bit frightening and not in the best interest of the world. ... So, with that said, I did what I can to make sure that that’s not an issue. Because I felt like I owed that to life, and I felt like I owed it to this little collective we call a nation who are trying to get through the world together.”

This sudden bout of patriotism sounds odd coming from a guy who witnessed complete governmental breakdown in New Orleans and went to Venezuela with revolution on his mind, but Darby says that it was those very experiences that added to his shift. “I think I began to see things very differently as a result of my experiences around Hurricane Katrina and the aftermath and my experiences as a person of leadership in a large organization. I saw the absolute importance and the absolute negative effect that happens to individuals or groups whenever there’s no stability in a system,” he explains. “I began to feel that we as a radical, radical left, because of the way we pseudo-governed, I started to feel like we were a little silly, critiquing the U.S. government, when we had so many faults of our own.”

Soul on Fire

Some people who worked with him are frankly suspicious that Darby's acknowledged collaboration with the FBI hints of something much larger and more sinister. Some Austin activists have formed the Austin Informant Working Group; currently focused on the McKay and Crowder cases, they are also considering the wider implications. The term "Green Scare" (by analogy to earlier anti-communist "Red Scares") refers to the federal government's growing interest in prosecuting environmental activist groups, particularly the Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front. Austin Informant Working Group member Simon Evans points to a report by former University of Texas law student Elizabeth Waggoner, who said that FBI agent Charles Rasner announced to her class that Food Not Bombs and Austin Indymedia were on the bureau's terror watch list. "It doesn't seem unreasonable to question," says Evans, "whether or not something larger is at play here."

"They're going after me and Scott and other organizers, but they nabbed the low-hanging fruit," said Fithian, who was also involved in the RNC protests in Minnesota. Fithian was not surprised at the news that Darby was an informant. "I always said at Common Ground: If he was not a cop or an agent of the state, he was doing their job for them, creating division and disrupting our work."

Crow initially came to Darby's defense, posting a strenuous denial, when a story in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* first fingered him as an informant, based on FBI documents. "It was more about defending the truth than it was about defending Brandon as a person," says Crow. "When I asked him, he told me it wasn't him, and I believed him. I've had to apologize to people like Lisa, because I gave him credibility with my initial statements. I just wanted to make sure he wasn't being maligned. Now, I didn't defend his misogyny or his antagonism; I defended him based on what he told me. It's still heartbreaking, you know." Darby eventually wrote an open letter coming out as an informant, but Crow first learned the truth by reading FBI documents furnished to him by McKay's defense team. Crow was hurt by the news, as this wasn't the first time he had found himself defending Darby.

"A lot of women had been hurt by this man, and a lot of men had defended him over the years, and it's not OK," says Fithian. "That's a whole part of the healing process that we are going to have to deal with as a community." This sentiment was echoed by other sources who spoke of a particular romantic relationship in Darby's past that they describe as emotionally abusive and Darby as paranoid, jealous,

and possessive. "I was a total asshole in my early 20s," Darby admits freely. "My entire adult life has been a process of trying to be less of an asshole. What on earth my penis has to do with this case, I have no idea."

Regarding Darby's obsessive and paranoid nature, Crow says that sometimes Darby would call him 30 times a day. "I'm not a psychologist, but I would definitely say that guy's paranoid. I mean, he sleeps with guns under his pillow. This is not something I have been told; this is something I have seen. The guy has a cache of weapons." This depiction from Crow, who legally owns an AK-47, pisses Darby off. "I have legal firearms that I have a right to own," he says, "and I live out in the country, and I think it's OK. And I did have a gun in New Orleans, and as a citizen I have a right to do that."

Sometimes, when Darby speaks of his old friend Crow, there's a catch in his voice — as when he says that they were close, once, but that Crow hasn't accepted his recent invitation to his home nor met his daughter. "I will always have a bond with him because of what we went through together, and no evil or anything that he would perceive as bad would come from my hand toward that person," he says, sounding sincere. Yet the documents reflect that during 2007, Darby secretly informed on Crow's whereabouts and actions. His defense is that he reported what he saw. "Wouldn't it be

more frightening," he asks, "if the person in my position picked and chose what truth they told rather than say the facts?"


"Even though I was a shield for him in a lot of ways," Crow now argues, "he really was marginalized in our community. A lot of people wouldn't work with him on stuff, and even I didn't have anything to do with him for a year before Common Ground, because he would start getting paranoid and do divisive things, like tell everyone that Lisa was out

to get him, for example. For one period in New Orleans, he started to get King to think that Lisa and I were colluding against him — and I took Brandon's calls more than anybody would. I counseled that guy many times and actually considered it more of a mentorship than a friendship. That guy asked me a lot of questions. And now of course, it all makes sense."

So when he had his personal epiphany, why didn't Darby reach out to other activists and tell them about his change in world-view — rather than begin spying on them? "If I felt like the best thing I could have done to right my wrongs was to come out and say how I felt, I would have done so. I just didn't feel like it was. I felt like I would be completely marginalized and nobody would want to hear my opinions." Darby uses the controversial civil rights leader and Black Panther turned

CONTINUED ON P.28

"I'm not a psychologist, but I would definitely say that guy's paranoid. I mean, he sleeps with guns under his pillow." — Common Ground Relief co-founder Scott Crow



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Informing Documents

Before he became an FBI informant, Brandon Darby pretended to be one — as a joke — at a Nazi rally at the state Capitol in 2006. He still thinks the joke is funny.



COURTESY OF ANN HARKNESS

Brandon Darby is no stranger to media attention, but he's new to the kind he's been getting since a *St. Paul Pioneer Press* article identified him in October as the informant who had "infiltrated" Bradley Crowder and David McKay's "protest group." A few days later, Darby's friend and fellow Austin activist Scott Crow passionately defended Darby on indie media site www.ntimc.org, calling the report an "absolute COINTELPRO lie." Crow was ultimately proven wrong by Darby himself, who proudly admitted his informant's role in a December open letter. A sector of Austin's betrayed activist community responded in kind with its own public statement. We've posted a range of this material — including the FBI affidavit (referring to Darby as "CHS 1") that opened the floodgates — at austinchronicle.com/webextra. There you will find:



- 1) David McKay affidavit and quotes from transcripts of Brandon Darby undercover, speaking to McKay; early September 2008.
- 2) "GOP Convention Protesters Seek to Exclude Evidence From Upcoming Trial," *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Oct. 29, 2008.
- 3) "On Rumors, Governments and Mouthpieces: Brandon Darby, Grand Juries and Our Movements," by Scott Crow, Nov. 2, 2008.
- 4) "To All Concerned," by Brandon Darby, Dec. 29, 2008.
- 5) "Statement on Brandon Darby, the 'Unnamed' Informant/Provocateur in the 'Texas 2,'" by the Austin Informant Working Group, Dec. 31, 2008.

Republican born-again Christian Eldridge Cleaver as an example. "He wrote a book called *Soul on Ice*, and it sold a million copies and is touted at all the anarchist bookstores. Most people in radical communities have heard of it. Then, if you say to an auditorium, 'Have you ever heard of a book called *Soul on Fire*?' No. That's when Eldridge Cleaver became a born-again Christian and changed his views and recanted much of what he had earlier believed. They don't promote it. Just like the school board: They promote a version of history that isn't historically accurate." Like a petulant teenager whose parents just don't get him, Darby adds: "Nobody lets you voice your opinions. Nobody cares. Nobody wants to hear it."

Pissed Off and Pissed On

Fithian says she was wary of Darby's presence in Minnesota last September. "Nothing about Brandon going to the RNC made any sense to me, and I spoke out about it, and I warned people. When he came to meetings, I actually asked, 'What the fuck is he doing here?'" She says she pulled him aside and asked him to leave communication meetings where strategic details of actions are worked out. "He said he was there to do medical, but instead he was at all the meetings, all the comms. When he stood up at a spokes meeting [i.e., organized like 'spokes' on a wheel], I told him he needed to leave."

Gabby Hicks, a 21-year-old activist who traveled in the van with Darby, McKay, Crowder, and others, said that the Darby in the open letter — who sounds like a thoughtful guy opposed to violence — is very different from the argumentative and nonsensical Darby she met. Once, on the drive up, Darby became agitated because he needed to go to the bathroom. "He at one point threatened a driver of the van, because the person didn't pull over fast enough, and Brandon was literally yelling, 'I'm a 31-year-old revolutionary, and you can't tell me when I can or can't pee!'" Hicks laughed. "Once we pulled over, they were still fighting, and someone asked if they needed mediation. Brandon was like, 'I can put it behind us if we can all act like adults.' He turned the whole thing around and acted like we were the ones who had freaked out. That was his tactic. It was just weird."

At the heart of the Darby story remain those two young men from Midland, Texas, Bradley Crowder and David McKay, who are currently facing years in federal prison based in no small part on information that Darby gave to the FBI. Though there are no legal restrictions preventing Darby from commenting on the case, he says he declines to do so out of "respect for the bureau." Darby is a decade older than either defendant and, as far as direct action is concerned, much more experienced. So why didn't he simply try to talk these guys out of doing something stupid or criminal instead of turning them over to the feds?

"Why didn't I try to discourage them? You don't know that I did or didn't," Darby insists. "For all you know, I could have gotten in trouble for violating the rules and trying to discourage somebody from doing something. I'm just saying you don't know what the facts are yet."

Indeed we don't, says Evans of the Austin Informant Working Group. "There is still the issue of entrapment: I want to be clear that we may never know Brandon Darby's full role or motivations in this incident, as these details are omitted from the FBI documents and informant reports provided to the defense. But something I keep coming back to is: What would I have done in the same position? I consider myself a moral and ethical person; I believe in nonviolence; I'm an 'anarchist.' What I would have done is talk to anyone thinking of illegal action, weigh in with my experience, point out the potential consequence, and dissuade that person. If that didn't work, I would have prevented them from purchasing the materials or going on the action. I feel that a strong community can educate and police itself."

Darby rejects the depiction of McKay and Crowder as kids easily influenced by an older activist. "If these two 'kids' had been stopped in the midst of a plot to bomb an abortion clinic, all these same people would be like: 'Why wasn't the government watching these people? Why weren't they involved?'" he says, exasperated.

Darby sees his current role with the FBI as something akin to a "volunteer firefighter" and believes it to be a natural extension of his desire to do what's right, no matter how uncomfortable.

"The guys who dragged James Byrd to death were the same age as these two, and they weren't kids; they were monsters." (Actually, two of the perpetrators in Byrd's 1998 murder in Texas were 24; the third was 32.) In any case, Darby is sticking to his story. "In regards to this case, there's no evidence that shows that I assumed a leadership role, and I didn't," he says. "I didn't encourage anybody to do anything, and if you think that I should have done everything I could have to talk these guys out of it, you're not going to be let down [as the trial proceeds] a month from now."

Good Career Move

Whatever his current motivations, Darby acknowledges his past mistakes. "When I was younger, I identified as a revolutionary, and I believed that many people around the world had a right to take up arms against oppression," he says. "But I mistakenly felt that our system was one where that would be appropriate." Then why does he feel that he deserved the benefit of maturity and hindsight, when McKay and Crowder deserve multiple years in the pen? How does he justify robbing them of their chance to go through their own maturing process and personal evolution of political ideology? "Because I didn't actually do any of it," he says. "Because I always had enough sense to know that I didn't have the wisdom to make decisions that endanger people's lives."

Darby does say that McKay and Crowder were not the focal point of the investigation. In the course of an ideological shift that took him from armed revolutionary to FBI mole, Darby says he began to see major problems with certain actions that were being planned for the Republican National Convention – particularly by the black bloc and a group of organizers calling themselves the Welcoming Committee. “Anytime that a group of people get together and say that they are going to use ‘any means necessary’ and have images of firebombs and all kinds of other things on their website and they organize around the country, not to protest but to specifically prevent another group of American citizens to exercise their right to assemble, the U.S. government is going to get involved,” he says. “And they should get involved, and I support it wholeheartedly.”

Crowder and McKay, he suggests, were just in the wrong place at the wrong time, adding, “Then, if at the very end of an investigation like that, as a complete shock to everybody, a group of people decide to do something that’s insane, they’re going to get in trouble for it.”

None of this fully explains why Darby chose to go undercover as an FBI informant and surreptitiously spy on his friends when he could have instead simply left the movement and tried to get involved in public policy in some other productive way. “I’ve watched countless activists begin to work in the Legislature and begin to do things that participate in the system; we have a system that is wide open for our involvement,” he said. “You can get involved and have a say so; if you disagree with the way our city is run, you can get involved. If you have an ideological bent that’s on social justice, you can become a law enforcement officer, you can get involved with the FBI, or a lawyer.”

Darby says he was indeed compensated at times for his work with the feds, although he’s vague on the details except to say he turned down witness protection and a lump sum offered to people who testify in federal cases. He does say he is able to be independent because he has some money from his family. Darby sees his current role with the FBI as something akin to a “volunteer firefighter” and believes it to be a natural extension of his desire to do what’s right, no matter how uncomfortable. Yet with his decision to go undercover instead of any other of the myriad choices he had to change the direction of his life, Darby has effectively reinforced the notions that many in the activist community already had: that the Man is always out to get you, and you just can’t trust anyone.

Activist, adventurer, hero, revolutionary, informant. For his next transformation, Darby sees a future for himself in law enforcement. His first gig was surely a foot in the door. ■

For more documents and background on Brandon Darby, see this story online at austinchronicle.com.



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The Washington Times



Photo by Kate Turning

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MATT STOKES: THESE ARE THE DAYS

Start your own damn band

British artist Matt Stokes received his very first commission in the United States from Arthouse in Austin, and he's doing a solo film and audio installation that the visual-arts organization is calling an "anthropological enquiry" based on "extended visits" here by this foreign-born artist "responding to aspects of the city's punk rock subculture." Is the subculture of punk beneath the social mores of Austinites? Would Arthouse describe a drug manufacturer as someone with an interest in chemistry and hydroponic growing systems? Fortunately, looking at his actual writing and images is more exciting than reading Arthouse's oddly formal descriptions of the project.

I'm stoked to go to Stokes' art talk on Saturday, Jan. 24, at 3pm. It's free and open to the public. I received his aggressive flier in the mail and found it charming. "Don't assume that not wearing a swastika makes you any less of a Nazi. We see you." Is this an indictment of all the folks in the greenroom at Room 710 during a Fuckemos show? Stokes repeatedly uses the inclusive "we," which feels correct. He writes: "You can keep your overpriced, chrome-plated, gar-



Matt Stokes. *these are the days*, 2008-09, two-projection installation

bage can of a society. We will not participate. ... We'd rather go to Raul's." He must have studied musicology with Jason Austin at Lovejoys. His work appears to be part history lesson, part call to action. "Stasis is the death of art and the staple of boredom." His flier rants briefly on topics such as crime, freedom of expression, commercialization, conformity, and revolutionary art. It's inspirational; I've always wanted to say this in the *Chronicle*, but I have never had a good reason to. I absolutely hate the slogan "keep Austin weird." For the last four years or so, every time the city of Austin has asked artists for art that "keeps Austin weird," it has made my stomach hurt. The phrase is so damn meaningless.

There, I said it, and I feel better already. The punk rock spirit confronts things publicly and is physically cathartic.

I'm glad the fine art world of Austin is investigating our city's sweet punk rock traditions. Last month, I thoroughly enjoyed the show at testsite by Chicago collective Temporary Services. These artists made tribute zines about the Dicks' lyrics, and Tim Kerr photocopied and handed out old Big Boys fliers. I'm excited to see if the punk zeitgeist of Stokes' film and

sound installation (from a punk show at the Broken Neck and a recording session at Sweatbox Studio) will be powerful enough to fully transform and energize the gallery space.

— Rachel Koper

"Matt Stokes: *These Are the Days*" will be on display Jan. 24-April 5 at Arthouse's Jones Center for Contemporary Art, 700 Congress. Talking Art With Matt Stokes, a free public program featuring the artist, will be held Saturday, Jan. 24, 3pm, at the Jones Center. For more information, call 453-5312 or visit www.arthousetexas.org.

AUSTIN LYRIC OPERA

Cinderella's ready for her close-up

If you don't already think that 2009 is a year of changes, try this on for size: Austin Lyric Opera will have one of its productions on television this week. That's a rather remarkable achievement considering how rare opera on the tube is in the 21st century – so rare that it feels like a relic from the medium's early days, the heyday of Leonard Bernstein and Gian Carlo Menotti.

What little opera makes it on air tends to come from companies with major muscle on the order of the Met. Who'd have thought we'd see the day that a local production would grace the airwaves, even if only in Central Texas?

Well, we're seeing it, courtesy of Austin PBS affiliate KLRU and its Emmy-winning series *iN coNtext.tv*. Producer/director/cinematographer Dutch Rall taped a full performance of the *Cinderella* that Austin Lyric Opera mounted last November, and he's been sequestered in the editing bay since, slaving away like the fairy tale's put-upon heroine to shape it into a 2½-hour program that will debut on KLRU Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 8pm. A preview DVD reveals that Rall has beautifully captured the vintage Tinseltown glamour of this production, which reset Rossini's original in 1930s



Sandra Piques Eddy

Hollywood. The period feel of R. Keith Brumley's sets – the faded vaudeville house in which Angelina (the Cinderella of the story) lives with her father and sisters, the gargantuan soundstage, the studio mogul's office, the commissary – fills the screen, grounding us in that bygone era of the Dream Factory, and Mary Traylor's natty and chic costumes look even snazzier and more stylish up close, where every pin-stripe and pleat, every ruffle and sequin, is clear and crisp.

Even if you saw ALO's *Cinderella* live, the production is worth a look here. Rall's close-ups add another dimension to the delightful performance. Sandra Piques Eddy's Angelina is even more winning; you can see just how lovely she is and

how expressive she is with those features, here soft with girlish yearning, there shining with excited delight. The feeling that Michele Angelini's princely Don Ramiro shows for Angelina acquires more depth, and we're able to catch and savor even the smallest comic flourishes

that John Boehr employs as the sly chauffeur, Dandini. Rall has built on what made director Garnett Bruce's staging such a joy, giving us even more of it to appreciate. He does ALO proud. And you know, if you like what you see on the tube, you can enjoy the work of Austin Lyric Opera live when the company presents Verdi's *Rigoletto* Jan. 31-Feb. 8 in Dell Hall at the Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside.

— Robert Faires

Austin Lyric Opera's *Cinderella* will be shown Tuesday, Jan. 27, 8pm, and Sunday, Feb. 1, 1pm, on KLRU, Channel 18. For more information, visit www.klrutv.org.

AUSTIN CLASSICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Don't break out the violins yet

These days artists and arts organizations are feeling the pinch like everybody is, and it's tempting to bemoan one's sad status. But one group that isn't breaking out the violins is Austin's classical music community. Instead, a couple of our most prominent local classical companies are taking steps to address the economic crisis before it cripples their ability to produce work or, as is happening with an alarming number of classical companies across the country, even survive. These organizations are being fiscally responsible and, as such, provide models for other ailing members of our cultural community:

- **Austin Lyric Opera** has canceled the 2009 Opera Ball, its huge fundraising gala that is traditionally held in late January, in favor of the Curve Ball, a cleverly titled campaign that speaks to the loop everyone has been thrown by the financial collapse and suggests a nonevent to which donors may contribute without the fuss that goes with a big social wingding. The campaign aims to raise the same \$170,000 that the Opera Ball would have but without the expenses involved. Donors who pledged gifts for the Opera Ball have allowed those gifts to go to the Curve Ball.
- **Conspirare** has postponed the premiere of a new choral work that it commissioned from the prominent composer Eric Whitacre. Originally scheduled for June of this year, the work was to close out the company's 2008-2009 season and be recorded, but with donations down at the end of the year, the company felt it more prudent to delay the \$275,000 project until January of the 2009-2010 season. In its place, Conspirare is offering a program of spirituals performed by all three company ensembles: the Chamber Choir, the Symphonic Choir, and the Youth Choir.

And not all the economic news has been grim. **Austin Symphony Orchestra** has actually had cause to celebrate – first with a \$1 million gift from philanthropist extraordinaire James Armstrong, who recently pledged \$1 million to Zach Theatre's proposed new building, to endow the James C. Armstrong Youth Education Program for the Austin Symphony to support the orchestra's Building Blocks, Young People's Concerts, and High School Concerts, then with a two-year, \$50,000 grant from the Dell Foundation to support the education program Chat With the Maestro, a chat room for local elementary school students from underserved schools in which they can visit with Maestro Peter Bay and learn about music and develop their computer skills at the same time.

— R.F.

Hall Overhaul

A renovated Bass reopens to a world much changed in the 20 months the venue was closed

BY ROBERT FAIRES

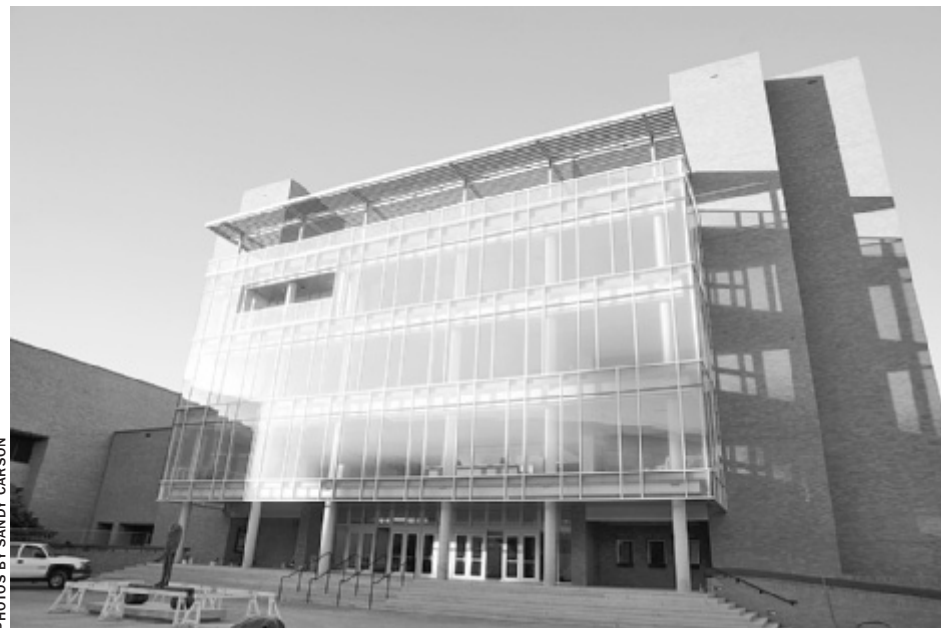
Remember back when there was *another* large concert hall in town?

Yes, before the Long Center for the Performing Arts opened, Austin had this 3,000-seat venue that regularly played host to touring Broadway musicals; world-class classical musicians and dance companies; marquee pop, jazz, and world music acts. University of Texas campus. Big brown brick bunker. Does the name Bass Concert Hall ring any bells?

If it's been awhile since Bass registered on your cultural radar, that's only natural. The UT Performing Arts Center facility has been shuttered 20 months, getting some needed upgrades to its physical plant – \$7.6 million in fire and safety improvements to bring the 1981 venue up to 21st century code – along with a substantive revamping of its exterior and interior. Well, that's all been completed, and this week Bass roars back onto the scene with a concert by R&B superstar John Legend, to be followed next week by the musical extravaganza *World of Sound*, which brings together 150 musicians from various University of Texas ensembles with mezzo-sopranos Frederica von Stade and Barbara Conrad and baritone Samuel Ramey headlining, and a concert by Broken Social Scene.

As makeovers go, the concert hall's can't begin to compare to the exorbitant one of its pigskin-palace neighbor. (Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial is so bulked up on stadium steroids now that the once-monumental Bass comes off as a modest cottage in its shadow.) The \$14.7 million spent on Bass – less than one-tenth of the cost for the stadium's north end-zone expansion – didn't purchase much in the way of structural alterations to the auditorium: no new aisles breaking up the wide sea of seats downstairs, no lessening of that dizzyingly steep pitch of the balconies. Still, you'll definitely be able to see some changes in the old hall, starting with the building front, which has been stripped of much of that drab brick and recovered with a five-story glass-and-steel facade that really lets the sunshine in and, when day is done, radiates an inviting glow to nighttime patrons, luring them like moths to a candle. New windows on either end of the upper-level lobbies and an outdoor balcony on the sixth level add to the new openness of the venue – a priority for BOORA Architects of Portland, Ore., the firm that's been at work on this project since 2003 and hoping to do for Bass what Lake|Flato did for the bunkerlike Harry Ransom Center

a few years ago. In addition to making the Bass facade transparent, the BOORA team has bumped out the building's front by 5 feet, a modest amount that nevertheless gives the lobbies on all five levels substantially more breathing room and space for bodies to circulate. And those dead-end bars that locked patrons into long lines at either end of the third level? Gone, to be replaced by mostly floating concession stations, some of which will dispense not just liquid refreshments but also real food, making it possible to make an early curtain for a concert or show without missing a meal. You'll see swanky new furniture adorning the lobby areas and almost a dozen works of mid- to late-20th century sculptures on long-term loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, part of the new Landmarks public-art program at UT. And not to be too reductive, but it can be a practical matter when you're at a show: You should also see shorter lines at the women's restrooms;



PHOTOS BY SANDY CARSON

the number of facilities for females has been bumped up from 33 to 53.

Perhaps more significantly, you'll be able to *hear* changes, as well. Sound has been an issue in Bass from its earliest days, with the cavernous space and hard surfaces sending sound bouncing around the auditorium, spawning numerous aural hot spots and dead zones. Jaffe Holden Acoustics, the internationally noted design firm that worked such wonders with the sound in Dell Hall at the Long Center, has been engaged to do the same for Bass. A forestage canopy and ceiling openings will aid sound flow and projection, with new adjustable acoustic curtains along the walls helping distribute the sound more evenly. And a half-million dollars has been invested in a state-of-the-art sound system. That bodes well for the visits of von Stade, Conrad, Ramey, and Legend, but the truest

test of the new Bass sound may not come until *Legally Blonde: The Musical* sits down for a week in early February. Touring theatrical musicals may have consistently suffered the worst sound glitches in the past, and as they have become much of Bass' bread and butter, a sound sound setup is more crucial than ever.

So Bass is clearly a changed hall, but during its downtime, the world around it changed, too. For starters, there's now that other concert hall in town. For the first time in its 28-year history, Bass is looking at a comparably sized venue with comparable programming in town. So is the Long Center more a companion or competitor to the university concert hall? According to April Holmes, who's steering the UTPAC while a search for a permanent successor to retired Executive Director Pebbles Wadsworth concludes: "Maybe there is some competition – I think that's inherent in almost any music venue in Austin – but we also support each other, because we're doing the same thing. Our missions are very similar, so you don't want either one of us to fail in any way.

We're trying to work as collaboratively as possible, and we are really trying to work together to make sure the public knows that."

Certainly, it's good to have a friend in tough times, and times are considerably tougher today than they were in the spring of 2007. Bass reopens with the economy having changed, too, for the worse. Is it possible that just when Bass has returned to the cultural fold, bigger and better and boasting a schedule of stellar shows, its audiences can no longer afford to come see them? That doesn't appear to be the case so far, says Holmes. "Subscriptions are higher than they've ever been before. And the economy was bad when subscriptions went on sale. Ticket sales have been great so far. Our opening-week shows are getting close to selling out. So are people excited about the Performing Arts Center? Are people really spending their dol-

lars on entertainment, and we're going to be okay? Who knows? But we monitor ticket sales daily, and we're really scrutinizing shows that come through and making sure that we're not going to lose money on those shows."

In fact, though the UTPAC can't claim to have been prescient where the current economic crisis is concerned, it had already scaled back on its fine-arts programming because of the long, dark period during the renovation. That's making its adjustments for next season less traumatic than they might have been otherwise. Holmes reports that the schedule for 2009-2010 is almost complete, and while the fine-arts bookings may be slightly slimmer than some seasons, the center's commitment won't be compromised. "We're still running full force with our '09-10 plan," she says. "Part of our mission is to bring these artists here, and thankfully we do have an endowment that helps us to bring those."

So get used to seeing Bass' blip on your cultural radar again, now and for a long time to come. ■

Public tours of the spruced-up Bass are being offered Sunday, Jan. 25, 2pm, and Tuesday, Jan. 27, 6pm. Doors open approximately 30 minutes prior to each tour, and the tours will last about 30 minutes. Bass Concert Hall is located at the corner of 23rd Street and Robert Dedman Drive on the UT campus.



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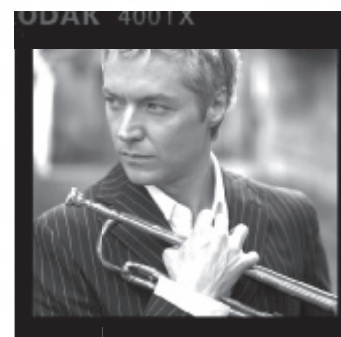
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AUSTIN TEXAS

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Broadway's Back (but that's not all)

"Broadway, that's what fills up [Bass Concert Hall] the most." So says April Holmes, interim director of the UT Performing Arts Center, and that explains why, in the first seven months after its reopening, Bass will play host to seven – count 'em, seven – musicals from the Great White Way. About once a month from February through August, a touring theatrical musical will land in Austin for a week's stay at the concert hall. Most are of recent vintage, and five of the seven have never been seen here before.

Legally Blonde: The Musical (Feb. 3-8): Upbeat, poppy spin on the Reese Witherspoon film comedy that screens on cable every other day now. Laurel Bell Bundy, the highly praised Elle Woods on Broadway, will reprise the role in at least some of the Austin performances. **Monty Python's Spamalot** (March 10-15): *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* translated to the stage with an aim toward poking Broadway musicals in the eye with a sharp stick. Johnathon Hadary leads the touring cast as King Arthur.

Avenue Q (April 15-19): Surprise Tony winner for Best Musical in 2004, an adult riff on *Sesame Street*, with puppet characters in a New York neighborhood singing about racism, homosexuality, money, Internet porn, and schadenfreude.

Rent (May 12-17): New national tour of Jonathan Larson's *La Bohème* update, with Broadway cast members Adam Pascal and Anthony Rapp reprising the roles of Roger

and Mark, respectively, from the stage and film versions.

Annie (June 5-7): Martin Charnin, who penned the lyrics to this perennial family fave about the Depression's pluckiest little orphan, directs this 30th-anniversary touring version.

Mamma Mia! (June 23-28): The movie has come and gone, but the stage version keeps on going and going, getting audiences bouncing happily to the hits of ABBA.

Wicked (Aug. 12-30): Gregory Maguire's book presented the Wicked Witch's side of *The Wizard of Oz*, and composer Stephen Schwartz made it a pop-musical sensation, seemingly irresistible to tween and teen girls.

ALSO ON THE SCHEDULE:

Jupiter String Quartet (Feb. 6):

Up-and-coming chamber music ensemble.

Circus Oz (Feb. 13-14): Australia's take on Cirque, heavy on the acrobatics and comedy.

Book of Longing (Feb. 21): Philip Glass pays tribute to Leonard Cohen. Commissioned by the UT Performing Arts Center.

Bill Cosby (Feb. 28): The comedy legend.

Gordon Lightfoot (March 3): The longtime Canadian songwriter and balladeer.

Grupo Corpo (March 6): Brazilian modern dance troupe of startling physicality.

Onix Ensemble (March 11): Mexico City quintet playing new Latin American classical music.



SANDY CARSON

Koren Der Harootian's
Prometheus and Vulture, 1948

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (March 24-25): Golden anniversary tour with a cappella ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock.

Imani Winds (March 26): African-American musical ensemble playing chamber music.

Paul Taylor Dance Company (April 1): Exquisite modern dance. Program features "De Sueños Que Repiten (of Recurring Dreams)," commissioned by the UT Performing Arts Center.

Chick Corea & John McLaughlin Five Peace Band (April 2): Reunion of the jazz fusion stars.

Madeleine Peyroux (April 4): Tour in support of the vocalist's *Half the Perfect World* release.

Itzhak Perlman (April 5): One of the violin's premier virtuosos.

Morrissey (April 12): Tour in support of the musician's new *Years of Refusal* release.

Sonny Rollins (May 3): Master of the jazz saxophone and improvisation.

Goran Bregovic & His Wedding and Funeral Orchestra (June 17): A Serbian brass band, a 12-piece string ensemble, and a 15-man choir.

— R.F.

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Photo: Greg Barrett

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Long Center

This project is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

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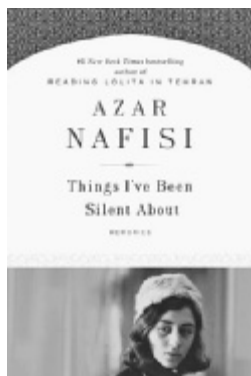
THINGS I'VE BEEN SILENT ABOUT: MEMORIES

by Azar Nafisi

Random House, 368 pp., \$27

Personal memoirs are curious animals. There's a certain amount of vanity that drives their creations, but the best of them provide some insight, not only into the writer but into the larger, shared human experience: the aspects of love, the scope of faith, the raw fervor of childhood, death, betrayal, and awakenings of all kinds.

Not only has Azar Nafisi written a memoir – the intriguing title borrowed from her diary – this is her second. Her first, 2003's *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, was an international bestseller and made her famous. That one mingled her story with those of her students in a study group that met to read and discuss banned books, including Nabokov's *Lolita*. But that memoir was much less personal than *Things I've Been Silent About*. Her new memoir is more intimately autobiographical, tracing her childhood in Iran to adulthood, her conflicted relationship with her mother, her deep devotion to her father (who instilled in her a love for literature), her eventual move to the States, multiple marriages, and motherhood – all set against the backdrop of her native Iran, pre- and post-revolution.



What one looks for in a memoir varies from reader to reader. Some may hunger for the deeply confessional, while others seek understanding of a world totally foreign to their own. Nafisi manages to satisfy both of these needs with extraordinary precision and clarity. In lesser hands, her work would be maudlin, sensational, or witheringly dry. The confes-

sional aspects of her life – as in a passage where she describes sexual abuse by a family friend – are stunning but not luridly recounted, while her introduction to and ongoing tutorials on classic Persian literature by her beloved father are delightfully (though sparsely) detailed. But Nafisi is not writing a history of Persian literature. She is, as the title suggests, speaking out. A woman – and more specifically, an Iranian woman – revealing intimate family details is not

only transgressive; it's brave and ultimately necessary. For this, Nafisi takes her place among a long line of women memoirists who, by breaking longstanding compliance with communal censorship, have opened a world of possibilities for other women, the marginalized, and the previously silenced.

– Belinda Acosta

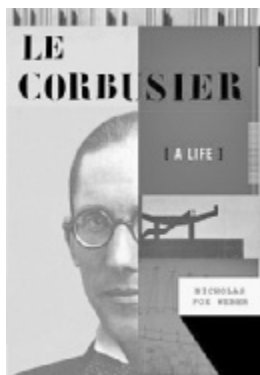
As part of the Harry Ransom Center Lecture series, Azar Nafisi will discuss her new book at the AT&T Conference Center Amphitheatre (1900 University Ave.) on March 12 at 7pm. Free and open to the public. For more info, visit www.hrc.utexas.edu.

LE CORBUSIER: A LIFE

by Nicholas Fox Weber

Alfred A. Knopf, 821 pp., \$45

Several hundred pages into his exhaustive, fascinating biography of brilliant and manic architect, painter, and theorist Le Corbusier, Nicholas Fox Weber quotes Le Corbusier contemporary Stefan Zweig's contention that “supreme achievement and outstanding capacity are only rendered possible by ... a sublime monomania that verges on lunacy.” The age of “No Drama” Obama might herald respite from the notion that Great Men with Great Ideas are by necessity megalomaniacal kooks, but Weber's work provides ample evidence that the theory will not die easily. Quoting primarily from Le Corbusier's letters, Weber connects the architect's prodigious output and massive influence with the specific ways he embodied the sort of exhilarating anxiety and ego-freakery we've come to associate with the birth of modernism. There is, for instance, the bizarre relationship between the architect and his mother, to whom he sent screeds, obsequious praise, ruminations on his sexual hang-ups, and nude sketches of himself and who for the most part reserved her affection for his less successful brother. Equally telling is his treatment of his troubled wife, Yvonne, whom he praised for her beauty and domestic skills while infantilizing and exoticizing

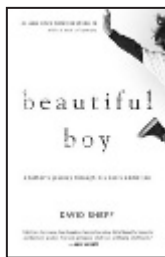


her. He disavowed his uptight homeland and Swiss Calvinist family – declaring himself Mediterranean at heart, changing his birth name (Charles-Édouard Jeanneret), and becoming a French citizen – while indulging in a Northern European predilection for order and rigor. Volumes have been written about Corbusier's work and influence; his integration of buildings, light, and nature; his transposition of monastic simplicity to public environments; his rooftop gardens; his ideas about

providing nurturing, affordable housing for the masses; and his much-misunderstood concept of buildings as “machines for living.” In contrast, Weber has written the first complete account of Le Corbusier's life itself, and while important works are discussed, he keeps elaborate descriptions and aesthetic treatises to a minimum. Instead, in elegant prose that foregrounds its subject, Weber recounts amusing, chronic problems with commissions, permits, and roof leaks; Le Corbusier's notoriously difficult personality at work; affairs with Josephine Baker and various heiresses; and, crucially, his later-downplayed involvement with Vichy France (seemingly mainly a matter of betting on the wrong horse). The question of whether the ridiculous behavior and disastrous alliances were necessary is rendered moot; what emerges is a life lived to the fullest extent – and engineered for the greatest impact – possible.

– Cindy Widner

Events at BookPeople



BEAUTIFUL BOY AND TWEAK
DAVID SHEFF AND NIC SHEFF
Houghton Mifflin & Simon & Schuster
Tuesday, January 27 7 PM

A father's worst nightmare come to life, David Sheff was forced to watch his son fall further and further into the clutches of methamphetamines. Nic Sheff, a smart and outgoing teenager, lost his car, apartment and previously close relationship with his family. We are happy to welcome both David (*Beautiful Boy*) and Nic (*Tweak*) to BookPeople to share their cautionary tale with families going through similar experiences.



SCRATCH BEGINNINGS
ADAM SHEPARD
HarperCollins
Thursday, January 29 7 PM

A truly inspirational story of the validity of the American Dream, *Scratch Beginnings* is the hard-to-put-down story of Adam Shepard. After graduating college, Shepard was disillusioned with the state of the American working class. He decided to test out a theory put forth by Barbara Ehrenreich—that those who start at the bottom stay at the bottom. Armed with a sleeping bag and \$25, Shepard gave himself one year to get a car, an apartment and \$2500. We welcome him to BookPeople tonight at 7 PM.



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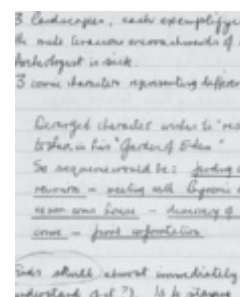
Writer Barry Unsworth

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 7 p.m.

for the inaugural event of the Harry Ransom Lectures.
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Booker Prize-winning novelist Barry Unsworth, whose archive is housed at the Ransom Center, discusses his new book, *Land of Marvels*. A book signing follows.

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after a fashion BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

THE CELEBS ARE COMING! It's that bitter-sweet time of year when the **Texas Film Hall of Fame** and **South by Southwest** creep up on us. My friend **Stephen Rice** ("the Stephens," as **Michael Barnes** calls us) is assisting me in pulling all the clips for the Hall of Fame stars that are being honored this year. It'll be grand and glamorous as usual: **Keith Carradine** is inducting the droolingly handsome **Powers Boothe**; **Dennis Quaid** is inducting **Billy Bob Thornton**; **Linda Gray** (yes, **Sue Ellen Ewing**) will present an award to **Larry Hagman**. Production designer and director **Catherine Hardwicke** will also be honored (aside from directing **Thirteen** and **Lords of Dogtown**, Hardwicke directed **Twilight**, which had the largest opening ever for a female director). So, for the next few weeks, I will be chained to my DVD player, watching some of the best (as well as the most god-awful) films ever produced. But stay tuned, boys and girls; the Texas Film Hall of Fame has a lot more surprises up its sleeve. ;-)

NIGGLING THOUGHTS Why doesn't **Anita Perry** spend as much time on her hair as **Rick Perry** does? She always looks like **Angie Dickinson**, and he always looks like **Michael Landon**... Heard at a cocktail party: "I just love wearing ties – look what they point to."...



Austin says goodbye to one of its most popular bartenders – Jeff Davis of Oilcan Harry's leaves us for Boston. It must be love!

PHOTOS BY SEABROOK JONES



Hill Country Ride for Aids (April 25) opened for registration with a party at La Zona Rosa. Dust off your spandex, and sign up at www.hillcountryride.org.

I'm embarrassed to realize that I have to wear reading glasses to find the carburetor on a bong ... and lighting a cigarette without glasses is practically self-immolation... Good news from a friend of many of us who has been mired in legal difficulties: Our friend will be back with us in a very short time. Hallelujah!

HOLIDAY GIVING In hindsight, I realize that I did my part for charity this year: I donated a heavy glass ashtray to a couple of needy friends whose plastic ashtrays kept blowing

off the terrace of their chic new aerie in one of the newest high-rises. Who knows where things like that go? I don't, but I'm currently licensing my name for a line of sturdy new safety helmets that are so pretty that you hardly even realize that you're wearing combat gear. Selflessly, I also donated an unused iPod dock to a needy friend who only had headphones. The coup de grâce of my generosity was donating a very large box of men's fragrances to some fellows outside the deserted old Home Depot off St. John's.

Just because they may not know where their next job is coming from is no reason not to smell pretty.

DIN-DIN The always fabulous **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner**, a major fundraiser for **Project Transitions**, is coming up on Sat., Feb. 7, at 7pm.

Write to our Style Avatar with your related events, news, and hautey bits: style@austinchronicle.com or PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765 or 458-6910 (fax).

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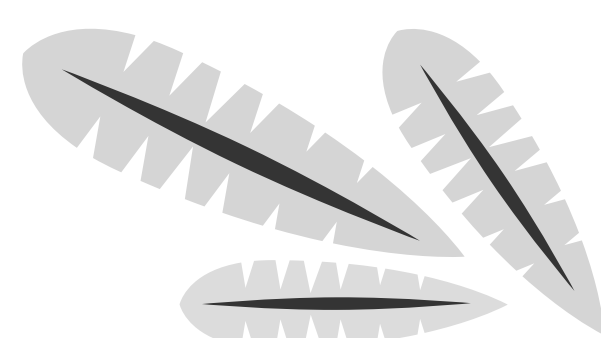
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Frank & Angie's might just be the pie enthusiast's best bet; its great thin crust version is accompanied by reasonably priced, classic home-style dishes named after famous Italians and served with a bit of nostalgic attitude, making it great for a casual date especially those on a budget. - Zagat

Friendly staff and quick service are especially good given the volume of business this pizzeria does. What shines at Frank & Angie's is the pizza. The sauce is made daily, the crust is thin and crisp, toppings are fresh, and the cheese blend is delicious, a bit salty, and caramelized beautifully at the edges. Don't miss the cannoli for dessert. It's one of the best in town. - Fearless Critic


Beautifully baked, thin, chewy crust holds sauce and mozzarella cheese packing incredible flavor. Forks up. One of the "Standouts of Austin's Best Pizza." - Dale Rice, *American Statesman*

If you think pizza parlors should be low-key, colorful - and, of course, have great pizza - you've come to the right place. - Frommer's

Frank & Angie's is the closest you can get to Brooklyn in Austin. From great pizza and excellent pasta to the Sinatra memorabilia on the walls, this place is bellissimo! - Insite Magazine

In defiance of the Austin area's college-fueled pizza saturation, Frank & Angie's has fought its way to the top of the pack with its unique, New York-style pizza, ingredient-intensive calzones, and a general Brooklyn-esque atmosphere. - City Guides

Great freakin' pizza! - Tibetan Monks



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Greg Koury and Ahmad Modoni of Manuel's fame opened Changos in 1998 with a really simple plan: Offer authentic, inexpensive, over-the-counter tacos made from the freshest ingredients in a casual but modern space. Ten years down the road, the judgment is that the boys have succeeded. The menu is concise and nonthreatening. Breakfast consists of tacos and sopes, with standbys such as migas, *chilaquiles*, and huevos rancheros or *motuleños*. For lunch and dinner, think *botanas*, salads, tacos and burritos, a few sides, and a few daily specials. Add agua fresca, smoothies, and beer, and the vision is complete.



You order at the counter, get your drink, and watch the fresh corn tortillas being made. We've started with the chile con queso (\$3.95), a large portion of smooth liquid white cheese with diced poblano and onion, better when you add some of the pico de gallo or *fogata* salsa to it. The *picada* salad with shrimp (\$7.95) is a great refresher: chopped lettuce, poblanos and red bells, tomatillo, jicama, avocado, red onion, and grilled shrimp.

From the taco world, we've had two versions of the Del Mar (\$3.25 each): tasty chunks of spiced mahi mahi cooked on the *plancha*, topped with white cheese, lettuce, and pico de gallo, and large fried shrimp topped with a cabbage slaw and a chipotle aioli. Both are excellent. Changos' al pastor (\$2.55) is a nice version, with slices of flavorful pork mixed with roasted pineapple, lime juice, onion, and cilantro.

From Del Pueblo (\$2.25 each) we've tried the beef (slices of griddled marinated steak topped with cilantro and salsa), chicken (slices of rotisserie marinated chicken with cilantro and onion), and the vegetarian mushroom (a few pieces of simmered potato, sautéed baby mushrooms, roasted red bell pepper, and cilantro). All were well-stuffed and satisfying. With each, you choose between the five sauces offered: ranchero, pico de gallo, verde, *norteño*, and *fogata*.

Having fresh, local, authentic Mexican fare this close to campus is a real benefit, especially considering the flavor and the prices. It's exactly what it claims to be, and 10 years of success speaks for itself. — Mick Vann

40 CIA in San Antonio 42 Restaurant Roulette



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

HYDE PARK MARKET, DELI & ORGANIC GROCERY

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In the not-too-distant past, the local Stop 'n' Rob was good for little more than gas, a bag of pork rinds, and an 18-pack of Bud Light. But business survival depends on response to the local market, and Central Austin is ... well ... different.

Items such as fine foods and quality beer have slowly crept into the landscape, but wow, the new management at Hyde Park Market, formerly the Sunrise Super Stop, has taken it to the extreme — especially in the beer department. Samuel Adams' **Hallertau Imperial Pilsner**? The **Boulevard Brewing Co. Smoke-stack Series**? Umpteen different Belgian varieties? In a corner store? This is serious beer-snob territory. The new proprietors have knocked down the back wall, expanding into the space next door, and carry — seriously — “about 550” different beers, I was told. We're talking a selection on a par with big boys like Grape Vine Market, Spec's, and Central Market. (I've heard similar things about the legendary Whip In, but being a North Austinite, I've never had occasion to visit that South Austin institution.)

The expansion is about more than beer. There's also a decent wine selection, and foodies will be pleasantly surprised by the deli selection with numerous Boar's Head meats, and I spotted Indian and Thai choices in the frozen-foods bin. They also proudly boast of a large selection of organic products. But I'm mostly there for the beer.

On my most recent visit, I grabbed the long-missed **Celis Grand Cru**, recently revived by Michigan Brewing Co. I also couldn't resist **Ale to the Chief!**, a special, limited-release concoction from Boulder, Colo.'s Avery Brewing that was meant to be enjoyed on Jan. 20 — and one not likely to be found even in corner stores with wider-than-usual beer selections.

Satan Golden Ale from Belgium? Check. **Deschutes** from Bend, Ore.? Check. It just goes on and on down the aisle, stuff you just can't believe is crammed into this tiny spot. Hyde Park, you have a gold mine hiding in your hood.

And yes, you can still get pork rinds there. And I don't think they're organic. — Lee Nichols

recently reviewed

FINE DINING: PAGGI HOUSE An eclectic interpretation of American regional cuisine in a sophisticated, revamped setting makes this new incarnation of an old favorite a Downtown destination. **200 Lee Barton Dr., 473-3700.** www.paggihouse.com.

FRENCH, MEDITERRANEAN: WHISK HANDCRAFTED CUISINE Hot sandwiches; cold, composed salads; and hot entrées reflect the flavors of Mediterranean France. If shopping for groovy kitchen gifts leaves no time for repast, raid the freezer for take-home options. **4238 Bee Caves Rd., 329-6405.** www.whiskaustin.com.

Event Menu Jan. 24-26

- ▶ **Boomerang's Gourmet Veggie & Meat Pies** (3110 Guadalupe, 380-0032, www.boomerangspies.com) opened for business on **Australia Day** three years ago, so the owners celebrate their anniversary with a big Australia Day party every year. Drop by the store for food and drink specials (\$3 Aussie beers, \$3 Independence Brewery beers, kids eat free with an adult), the Fastest to Eat a Pie Contest (4pm), a live auction benefiting **Meals on Wheels and More** ending at 6pm, and live musical entertainment from **DJ Gmau** all afternoon. Saturday, Jan. 24, noon-8pm.
- ▶ **Cuatros** (1004 W. 24th, 243-6361, www.cuatrosaustin.com) invites folks to bring leashed dogs to the first of its new monthly Doggie Happy Hour parties. Unlimited water and treats for canine guests and complimentary chips and hot sauce for humans. Each happy hour will conclude with a raffle to win a doggie goody bag from Lofty Dog and Dirty Dog for one lucky dog, plus a Cuatros gift card for his or her owner. Monday, Jan. 26, 5-7pm.
- ▶ **Imperia** (310 Colorado, 472-6770, www.imperia-austin.com) offers an elaborate celebration to commemorate the beginning of the **Year of the Ox**. Festivities will include passed hors d'oeuvres, drink specials, and unique entertainment such as traditional lion and dragon dances, an Asian drum performance, and special house music from **DJ Komson**. Monday, Jan. 26, doors at 4pm, entertainment at 7pm. — V.B.W.

food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

Folks in the suburbs of far Southwest Austin are salivating with anticipation over the impending arrival of one of Austin's seminal fine-dining restaurants in their neighborhood. Chef/owners **Stewart Scruggs** and **Mark Paul** are moving **Zoot** (11715 Bee Caves Rd., 477-6535, www.zootrestaurant.com) from the West Austin cottage where it's been located for nearly 20 years to a space formerly occupied by **Bee Cave Bistro** just east of Highway 71 West. The move will make it possible for the restaurant to expand both the seating and parking capacity as well as add a full bar. Scruggs says the new location should be open for dinner in mid- to late February with plans to add lunches a few weeks after that. During the transition period, Zoot chef de cuisine **Andreas Exarhos** had the time to work a very inspiring stage in the Cleveland restaurant kitchen of **Food Network Iron Chef Michael Symon**, a longtime friend of Scruggs and his wife, **Abigail**... Two Central Texas companies took **Barack Obama's** presidential inauguration very seriously this week. Handmade chocolate from Hico's **Wiseman House Chocolates** (www.wisemanhousechocolates.com) were served at parties in Washington during inauguration week, and Austin's **Mary Louise Butters** (www.buttersbrownies.com) created the Obama Brownie (chock-full of dried blueberries, cranberries, and white chocolate chips) for her Sweet Charity line. Butters will donate a portion of the proceeds from sales of the Obama Brownies to the hunger relief organization **Feeding America**... I've often said that one of the best perks of this job can be the food samples, but since I don't keep office hours in the *Chronicle* building, sometimes I do miss out — such as the Wednesday in December when the father-and-son team of **Steven** and **Tony Cohn** pulled their **Stony's Mobile Pizza Kitchen** (Sixth & Red River, 287-0666) trailer into the office parking lot and whipped out 20 assorted pies for my appreciative colleagues or the day early last week when **Cody Fields** and **Kristen Studer** of **Mmmpanadas** (Fifth & Brazos, www.mmmpanadas.com) dropped by the office with hot samples of all of their savory and sweet empanadas. Considering the positive comments from my colleagues, it looks like I'll be cruising the entertainment district some evening soon to check out both kinds of pies for myself... UT art professor **Luanne Stovall** invited me to the first **Sweet Home Dream Pie Social** she coordinated at Clarksville's historic **Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church** (1725 W. 11th) last weekend. Stovall's inspiration for the event was her desire to “create a meaningful culinary tradition as a part of our **Martin Luther King Jr.** holiday observances.” The Rev. **Steve Manning** welcomed guests to the fellowship hall, where everyone enjoyed a recitation of King's legendary “I Have a Dream” speech by area school children, songs by the Sweet Home choir, an oral history project to savor pie memories, and the Dream Pie contest with a silent auction to raise funds for a handicapped access ramp for the church. I certainly hope this celebration becomes an annual event.



Sueños Latinos

The dream of promoting Latin American cuisines is realized at the new San Antonio Culinary Institute of America campus

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD



Modern-day San Antonio capitalizes on its significant place in Texas history as well as its Hispanic cultural heritage to make the city a genuine tourist mecca. The campus of the Culinary Institute of America at the restored Pearl Brewery site is the city's newest attraction, representing the confluence of entrepreneurship, historic preservation, and visionary philanthropy that anticipates the burgeoning role of Hispanics in this nation's hospitality industry in coming years. The dream of bringing this new facility to San Antonio was realized by entrepreneur/philanthropist Christopher "Kit" Goldsbury with the contribution of two iconic Texas products – Pace Picante Sauce and Pearl beer.

David Pace founded his eponymous salsa company in San Antonio in 1947 and ultimately dreamed that his tasty product would make him the Heinz of the salsa industry. Kit Goldsbury bought the company from his father-in-law in 1985, greatly expanding the brand through modernizing the manufacturing process and using memorable national television ad campaigns ("New York City? Get a rope!"). Thanks to consistent product quality and creative promotions, Pace dominated the American salsa market when Goldsbury sold the brand to the Campbell's Soup Co. in 1994 for \$1.12 billion. A portion of that money is what eventually funded Goldsbury's

personal culinary dream for San Antonio – on the spot where another iconic Alamo City product was born.

Goldsbury's investment corporation, Silver Ventures, bought the 22-acre Pearl Brewery site on the east bank of the San Antonio River just north of downtown in 2002 with elaborate plans for developing a mixed-use urban village. The company restored some of the historic late-19th century Victorian buildings as well as some of the mid-20th century industrial outlets and also added new construction to create an area where people can live, shop, eat, play, study, and learn. The 1,100 feet of riverfront at Pearl will eventually double the length of San Antonio's famed Riverwalk – with a barge-turning basin at the northernmost navigable point on the river and a stage and amphitheatre on the banks. The project components that are currently operational are the Pearl Stable meeting and event facility, the Aveda Institute San Antonio, the Texas Farm to Table Cafe, the Synergy Studio, Run Wild Sports, and Melissa Guerra's Tienda de Cocina store, featuring culinary ingredients, kitchenware, and crafts imported from Latin America.

Silver Ventures built a state-of-the-art kitchen and classrooms for Pearl's anchor tenant, a research and educational facility called the Center for Foods of the Americas, which debuted in 2006 with consultation assistance from the Culinary Institute of America. The center's goal was to elevate Latin cuisines "to their rightful place among the great cuisines of the world and to promote Latino diversity in the U.S. foodservice industry." To that end, Goldsbury pledged the largest single donation in the history of American culinary education, \$35 million – \$7 million for facilities in San Antonio; \$8 million to the CIA to fund Latin culinary studies programs and facilities at the main campus in Hyde Park, N.Y.; and \$20 million earmarked for scholarships for Latino culinary students to study in San Antonio and New York. "Our vision is for the [Center for Foods of the Americas] to help raise awareness of Latin American cuisines as being among the world's leading culinary traditions, with Latino chefs at the forefront of this movement," Goldsbury explained, adding that "this is a chance to give back to an industry that was the source of my success, by creating educational opportunities that will open doors for others in the food industry."

The Center for Foods of the Americas officially became the second branch campus of the Culinary Institute of America in 2008 with an inaugural class pursuing a 30-week certificate program in culinary arts. As the extensive new facilities are completed, the program will host 120 culinary students per year and also offer continuing education classes on Latin cuisines for culinary professionals (see "CIA San Antonio's Classes for Chefs and Enthusiasts," p.41), as well as recreational classes for the public. The new campus made a splashy debut on the international culinary scene in October 2008, when CIA San Antonio hosted the first Symposium on Latin Cuisines, Cultures, and Exchange titled Latin Flavors, American Kitchens: Envisioning a Future of Excellence, Innovation, and Opportunity. This year's program was designed to educate American restaurant industry and media professionals (myself included) about the distinctive ingredients and techniques necessary to create authentic Latin dishes for American menus, specifically focusing on dishes from Mexico, Brazil, and Peru.

The conference was held in the beautifully restored Pearl Stable with presentations ranging from seminars on the history of New World ingredients to the authentic interpretation of Latin dishes on American menus and the advancement of Latinos in American kitchens and an exploration of successful menu strategies to the fine-dining cultures in Mexico City and Lima, Peru. Cooking demonstrations were provided by expert international

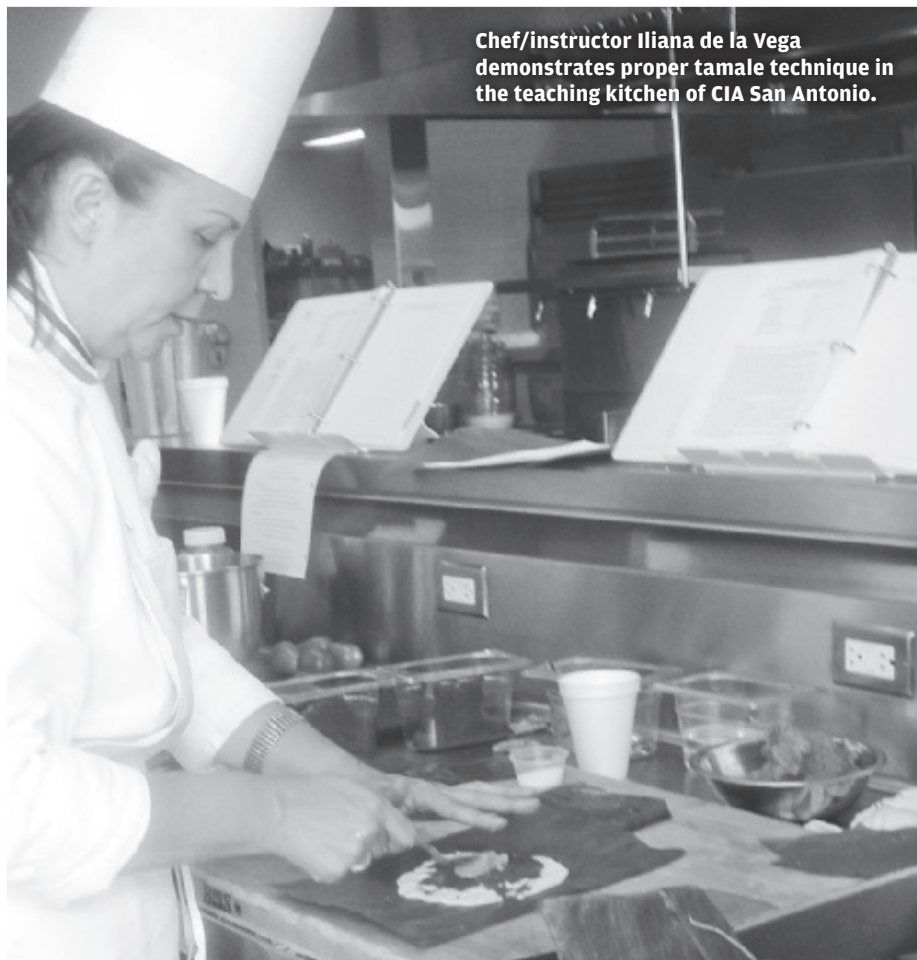
chefs such as Iliana de la Vega, Roberto Santibañez, Carmen Ramírez Degollado, Maricel Presilla, Humberto Sato, Flavio Solorzano, and Pedro Miguel Schiaffino and complemented by walk-around tastings at the campus' outdoor live-fire kitchen. We feasted on contrasting *moles* from Mexico, ceviches and black-eyed pea fritters from Brazil, and Nikkei and *chifa* (Japanese- and Chinese-influenced Peruvian dishes) specialties from Lima's dining hot spots. Based on the informative presentations and sensational food provided at the inaugural event, the annual Latin cuisines conferences and continuing education courses at CIA San Antonio are destined to become as important a culinary destination as the annual World of Flavors conferences held at CIA Greystone in California – and they're right in our own back yard!



The Culinary Institute of America's San Antonio campus is located at 312 Pearl Pkwy., Bldg. 3, and can be reached by phone at 800/285-4627 or 210/222-1113. You can also point your browser to www.ciachef.edu/sanantonio for more.



Mexican snacks prepared by students in CIA San Antonio's antojitos class



Chef/instructor Iliana de la Vega demonstrates proper tamale technique in the teaching kitchen of CIA San Antonio.

CIA San Antonio's Classes for Chefs and Enthusiasts

In addition to chef-training programs, the CIA in San Antonio offers periodic hands-on classes – some for culinary professionals and some for amateur “food enthusiasts” – that cover various facets of Latin American cooking. While not exactly the same as taking lessons in Mexico or Peru, these classes are the real deal, and they're practically in the neighborhood.

Last fall, I had the good fortune to attend a professional-level *antojitos* (Mexican small plates and snacks) class taught by Iliana de la Vega, former chef/owner of the internationally renowned Restaurante el Naranjo in Oaxaca, Mexico. In addition to teaching professional and enthusiast-level courses, de la Vega (who now resides in Austin) is hard at work compiling a comprehensive catalog of Latin American cooking for CIA's archives.

My classmates were a dozen working chefs from San Antonio, Austin, Laredo, and Santa Fe, N.M. On each of the course's five days, we gathered at 7am for an hourlong lecture on the culinary traditions, ingredients, and cooking practices of a different region of Mexico. Then, in the school's spacious, light-filled kitchen, we worked in teams to prepare scores of *antojitos* from the region of the day. Under the chef's guidance and exacting eye, we made *norteño*-style *chilorio*, *uchepos* from

Michoacán, Jalisco-style *tortas*, *tlacoyos* from Puebla, and *garnachas* from Tehuantepec. We parsed components and combinations for myriad salsas, got comfortable with dozens of fresh and dried chiles, and learned the textures, fillings, wrappings, and flavors for properly made tamales from all corners of Mexico. We prepared varieties of ceviches and *refrescos* and masses of masa-based snacks. At day's end, we sat down together with at least 20 different regional dishes to taste, critique, and then devour with gusto and a hard-earned new appreciation.

De la Vega says that new classes are in development (such as Peruvian cooking) and that, while the enthusiast classes are shorter and less intense, her mission is always to impart to students a deep understanding of the studied cuisines and preparations.

Me? I came away with an exponentially increased comprehension of Mexican cooking traditions as well as an invaluable, fat notebook of recipes, food history, flavor profiles, and ideas. While not on a physical visit south of the border, our class reaped great benefit from a hands-on, skillfully guided journey through the culinary regions of Mexico.

– MM Pack

Information about CIA San Antonio's enthusiast classes is at www.ciachef.edu/sanantonio; for info about professional development classes, see www.ciaprochef.com.

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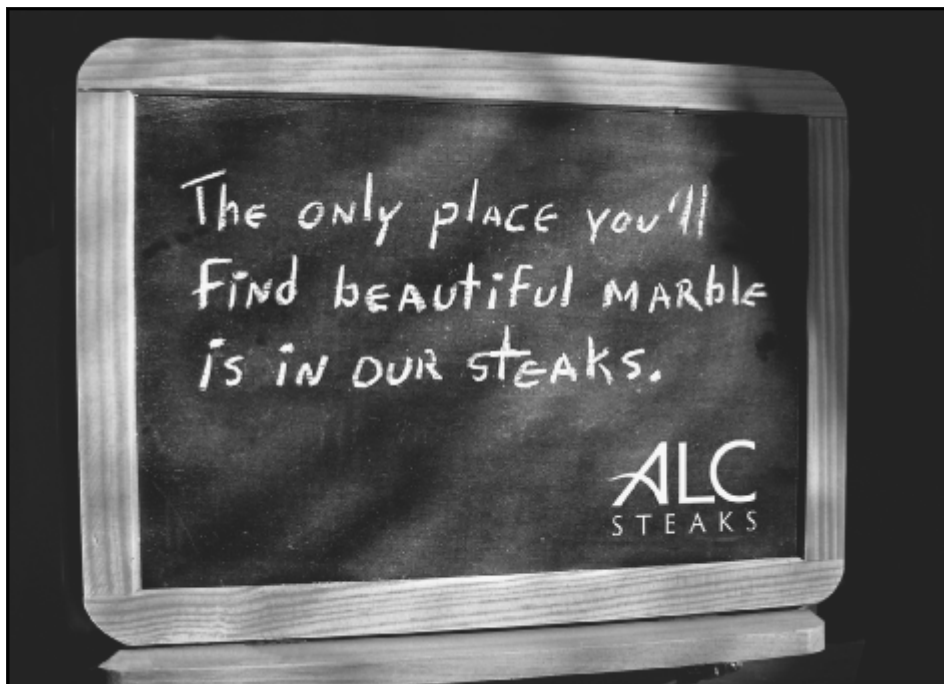
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AMERICAN CAFE, PUB GRUB: MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Seriously, really, really good fish and chips, and we love the bargain-priced shepherd's pie. NFL Ticket every Sunday. 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747. www.motheregansirishpub.com. \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: LEAF Healthy, fresh, gourmet entrée salads in a fast, casual environment, made with a commitment to local farmers and vendors. Fabulous quality. 419 W. Second, 474-5323. www.leafsalad.com. \$\$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: ARTURO'S BAKERY & CAFE Sitting between El Mercado and Galeria Sin Fronteras, you'll find Mexican fare, sandwiches, burgers, smoothies ... and knockwurst! 314 W. 17th, 469-0380. \$

BARBECUE: LAMBERTS Offering steaks, chops, seafood, and barbecue, this spot in the 2nd Street District caught on fast. That may have something to do with live music upstairs almost every night. 401 W. Second, 494-1500. www.lambertaustin.com. \$\$

CAJUN/CREOLE: ROUX Occupying the former location of Jazz, Roux offers Cajun favorites with a "fusion twist" of Southwestern flavor. 214 E. Sixth, 479-0474. www.rouxaustin.com. \$\$\$

DEL/ SANDWICH SHOP: JIMMY JOHN'S GOURMET SANDWICHES "Established in 1983 to add to students' GPA and general dating ability." The subs and clubs here might do just that. 601 W. MLK, 478-3111. www.jimmyjohns.com. \$

JAPANESE: SILHOUETTE Sushi, rice rolls, dumplings, spring rolls, wraps, coffees, teas, and live music: It's the perfect spot for that late-night pick-me-up. 718 Congress, 478-8899. \$\$

MEDITERRANEAN: MARAKESH CAFE & GRILL Large portions at reasonable prices and some of the best and most authentic Middle Eastern food in town make this place the total experience. 906 Congress, 476-7735. \$\$

PUB GRUB: MAGGIE MAE'S There is always a friendly crowd at this Sixth Street stalwart. The grub is pub, and the TVs are hi-def. 323 E. Sixth, 478-8541. www.maggiemaesaustin.com. \$

THAI: THAI TARA This fashionable West Sixth Street outpost continues to be the destination for Downtown Thai food and atmosphere. 601 W. Sixth, 236-0856. www.thaitara.com. \$\$

EAST

AMERICAN CAFE, FRENCH: BLUE DAHLIA BISTRO Visit this casual and cool spot for a cafe au lait, a cheese plate and wine, or a luscious open-faced tartine. Tasty and beautifully presented sandwiches, salads, soups, coffees, desserts, and breakfasts. 1115 E. 11th, 542-9542. www.bluedahliaastro.blogspot.com. \$

AMERICAN CAFE: CISCO'S BAKERY In the breakfast business for 50 years, Cisco's still serves good migas, huevos rancheros, and hot biscuits with healthy doses of Austin political history. 1511 E. Sixth, 478-2420. \$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: BOSSA NOVA The menu is inspired by Brazilian cuisine and features vegetable-packed "natural style" sandwiches, as well as a full lunch menu, and don't pass up the fresh baked goods. 2121 E. Sixth #101, 478-8700. www.bossanovaustin.com. \$

CAJUN/CREOLE: NUBIAN QUEEN LOLA'S CAJUN SOUL FOOD KITCHEN A proprietress as friendly as her food is good serves up huge portions of good burgers and Cajun chow from a limited menu. The dining room is communal and friendly, and Lola is a blessing. 1815 Rosewood, 474-5652. www.nubianqueenlolas.com. \$

SEAFOOD, SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: MR. CATFISH Friendly and funky with a blend of Creole and Southern soul foods that aim to please. Especially recommended are the catfish, collards, fried okra, red beans and rice, and the addictive boudin balls. 1075 Springdale, 927-6666. \$

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: GENE'S NEW ORLEANS STYLE POBOYS & DELI The royalty of New Orleans-style soul food in Austin. The po'boys are the real deal, and the fantastic daily soul food specials keep the place hopping at lunchtime. 1209 E. 11th, 477-6600. www.eatatgenes.com. \$

TEX-MEX: ANGIE'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT This homey restaurant serves up Tex-Mex breakfasts and huge \$6.25 lunch specials. The incredible homemade corn tortillas are one of its many claims to fame. 1307 E. Seventh, 476-5413. \$

TEX-MEX: NUEVO LEÓN This cavernous, friendly restaurant offers cheap combination plates. It is decorated almost exclusively in pink and green and adorned with Texas-shaped mirrors and many Christmas lights. Serious date potential. 1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097. www.nuevoleoninaustin.com. \$\$

TEX-MEX: PORFIRIO'S TACOS A taco shop serving breakfast and lunch. Carne guisada is the specialty. 1512-B Holly, 476-5030. \$

TEX-MEX: VIVO Try their affordable San Antonio-style Tex-Mex fare and margaritas on the decks. 2015 Manor Rd., 482-0300. www.vivo-austin.com. \$\$

LAKE

FINE DINING, ITALIAN, SEAFOOD: ROCCO'S GRILL Overlooking the hills of Lakeway, its pasta and seafood selections are the way to go. 900 RR 620 S. Ste. A-106, 263-8204. www.roccosgrill.com. \$\$\$

ITALIAN: HILL COUNTRY PASTA HOUSE We loved the pizza with sun-dried tomatoes and melting gobs of Texas chèvre. The food here is worth a drive from town. 3519 RR 620 N., 266-9445. www.hillcountrypasta.com. \$\$

TEX-MEX: IGUANA GRILL A midpriced menu offers most of the standards, but the flautas and sauces really stand out. Fabulous margaritas and a stellar beer selection go well with the killer view. 2900 RR 620 N., 266-8439. www.iguanagrillinaustin.com. \$\$

NORTH

AMERICAN CAFE: DAVE AND BUSTER'S Order a Player's Platter, and check out a game on one of more than 30 hi-def TVs. The midway keeps the kids entertained while you cheer your team on. 9333 Research Ste. A-600, 346-8015. www.daveandbusters.com. \$\$

BARBECUE: BONE DADDY'S HOUSE OF SMOKE Your waitress may resemble a runaway who's lost her clothing, but don't call the cops - just order the ribs. 11617 Research, 346-3025. www.bonedaddys.com. \$

CHINESE: T&S SEAFOOD RESTAURANT This Chinese seafood restaurant is the choice for many local chefs and restaurateurs on their days off. The Cantonese seafood selections and dim sum stand out. 10014 N. Lamar, 339-8434. \$

INDIAN: MADRAS PAVILION offers spiced vegetable dishes served with white and tamarind rice for lunch and a wide selection of reasonably priced appetizers, *dosa*, and *uthappam* for dinner. 9025 Research #100, 719-5575. www.madraspavilion.us. \$

ITALIAN: IT'S ITALIAN Find a full menu of classic Italian specialties, as well as weekend specials such as grilled rib eye steak. 14735 Bratton, 252-1444. \$

PAN-ASIAN: CHON SOM Go for the ahi tuna tapas or a New York strip. The presentation is beautiful, and so are the prices. 2013 Wells Branch Pkwy. #109, 989-5559. www.chonsom.com. \$

PIZZA: OASIS MEDITERRANEAN CAFE & PIZZA Start with crumbled feta, biting radish slices, and parsley garnishing a basket of hot flatbread. Kebab plates are another option, with tender meats and lightly charred vegetables. 14735 Bratton #105, 251-5777. www.oasis-pizza.com. \$

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: DAILY JUICE CAFE Looking for a healthy brunch? Everything on the menu here is composed of raw vegetable matter of one kind or another. 4500 Duval, 380-9046. www.dailyjuicecafe.com. \$

NORTH CENTRAL

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Go for light fare such as cilantro-lamb wraps, sandwiches, salads, and pastries. Don't forget to wash it all down with a terrific coffee drink. 4600 Guadalupe, 380-0097. www.flipnotics.com. \$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: QUACK'S 43RD STREET BAKERY Carrying on the tradition of slacker-era Austin, it is a great place to luxuriate over coffee and a muffin. 411 E. 43rd, 453-3399. www.quackquacks.com. \$

CHINESE, VIETNAMESE: KIM PHUNG CHINESE & VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT Most folks go for the bowls of pho or for the *bun*, but you should give the dinners a try. The hot-and-sour soup rocks, and the lunch specials are delicious, big, and cheap. 7601 N. Lamar # 1, 451-2464. www.kplamar.com. \$

CHINESE: CHINA PALACE The Palace was huge back in the Seventies and Eighties, with long lines and great Chinese cuisine. It's back with a vengeance and loaded with authentic taste. Insist on the Chinese menu, and be adventurous. 6605 Airport, 451-7104. \$

CONTINUED ON P.44

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FOOD RESTAURANT ROULETTE CONTINUED FROM P.42

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: JASON'S DELI The sandwich selection ranges from traditional deli to wraps and pita pockets, plus there are special menu sections dedicated to heart-healthy and kids' choices. 1000 E. 41st #940, 453-8666. www.jasonsdeli.com. \$\$

FINE DINING: VINO VINO Comfy decor, great wines, surprisingly good food, and reasonable prices keep everybody coming back. 4119 Guadalupe, 465-9282. www.vinovino.com. \$\$

MIDDLE EASTERN: PHARA'S MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE & CHRISTOPHER'S CASBAH Housed in the former Ararat location, the menu offers several vegetarian options, as well as salmon and lamb surprises. 111 E. North Loop, 632-7067. www.pharas.com. \$\$

SEAFOOD: QUALITY SEAFOOD MARKET Friendly bartenders and two flat-screens for your viewing pleasure. It's the place where all your favorite restaurants get their seafood, so you know it's the freshest. Hit the oyster bar for lunch or an early dinner. 5621 Airport, 454-5827. www.qualityseafoodmarket.com. \$

TEX-MEX: ANTONIO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT Staples such as fajitas, burritos, enchiladas, and carne guisada are adequate, and the margaritas are flowing freely. 7522-B N. I-35, 419-7070. www.antoniostmex.com. \$\$

SOUTH

AMERICAN CAFE: SOMNIO'S CAFE There is a heavy emphasis on local, organic vegetables here, as well as free-range, grass-fed, pastured, and hormone-free meat. 1807 S. First, 442-2500. www.somnioscafe.com. \$\$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: CHUCK'S DELI & COFFEE SHOP It has already caused a stir with fabulous desserts, a great location, and fresh ingredients. 12115 Manchaca Rd., 502-5808. \$

FRENCH: FLIP HAPPY CREPES Lodged in an Airstream trailer parked just off South Lamar, it serves up homemade, rich, and satisfying crepes, both savory and sweet. The funky ambience and delicious food make it worth a visit. 400 Jessie, 552-9034. www.fliphappycrepes.com. \$

JAPANESE: ZEN JAPANESE FOOD FAST You have to work pretty hard to spend more than \$7 here. When we want fast, fresh, and tasty food, we head to one of the three locations. 1303 S. Congress, 444-8081. www.eatz.com. \$

SEAFOOD: GARRISON PARK HARBOR This place observes the holy trinity: seafood, steaks, and live music. 730 W. Stassney #120, 462-2664. \$\$

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: THE MOCKINGBIRD KITCHEN Regulars rave about the great barbecue and tasty breakfasts here. Try the sweet potato empanadas. 6001 W. William Cannon #301, 301-7771. \$

TEX-MEX: TORCHY'S TACOS The crowds gathering at all hours attest to the loyal following Torchy's has developed. Try the Little Nookies: deep-fried chocolate-chip cookies. 2809 S. First, 444-0300. www.torchystacos.com. \$

THAI: SUBSIN'S Friendly, attentive service and an affordable menu characterize this tiny neighborhood spot. 5517 Manchaca Rd., 462-1450. \$\$

UT

AMERICAN CAFE: DRUNGO ICE HOUSE Offers a full menu including hamburgers and sandwiches, pizzas, soups, and salads, as well as a good list of local and national brews. 2828 Rio Grande, 478-6666. www.drungoicehouse.com. \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: KERBEY LANE CAFE Famously fabulous for breakfast, lunch, and dinner and a favorite of the late-night set. It wears its groovy legacy on its sleeve, with Frisbee-sized pancakes, pasta, black beans, and great coffee. 2606 Guadalupe, 477-5717. www.kerbeylanecafe.com. \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: SPIDER HOUSE PATIO BAR & CAFE This cozy, old North Campus bungalow serves coffee drinks, juice, and beer, as well as a small, eclectic, vegetarian-friendly menu in a comfortably shabby atmosphere. 2908 Fruth, 480-9562. www.spiderhousecafe.com. \$

BURGER JOINT: BURGER TEX Build your own burger at this longtime, no-frills restaurant. 2912 Guadalupe, 477-8433. \$

FINE DINING: MANSION AT JUDGES' HILL A terrific date spot with a small, romantic dining room and an abbreviated but well-chosen wine list. The cooking is creative but simple, relying on quality, fresh ingredients. 1900 Rio Grande, 495-1800. www.mansionatjudgeshill.com. \$\$\$\$

FRENCH, JAPANESE: WEFUSE Formerly the Fuse Box, this spot serves up fresh salads such as cranberry with goat cheese and shrimp and melon. The bento boxes are varied and reasonably priced. 2025 Guadalupe #152 (Dobie Mall, first floor), 236-0207. www.wefuse.net. \$

MIDDLE EASTERN, PIZZA: ITALIAN LONGHORN PIZZERIA You can enjoy Middle Eastern fare such as falafel, gyros, dolmas, and tabouleh at this popular pizzeria. 415 W. 24th, 457-4992. \$

MIDDLE EASTERN: KISMET CAFE Serving Mediterranean-American cuisine, Philly subs, gyros, and salads. 411 W. 24th, 236-1811. \$\$

THAI: MADAM MAM'S NOODLES & MORE Fans and regulars are always borderline obsessed. The authentic Thai home-style dishes served in this popular campus-area spot are "Mam's" family recipes. 2514 Guadalupe, 472-8306. www.madammam.com/Menu1.htm. \$\$

WEST

AMERICAN CAFE, JUICE BAR: CASTLE HILL FOOD FOR FITNESS You don't need to be a member of Castle Hill Specialized Fitness to enjoy these premade, fresh-daily meals that can be heated and eaten there or taken home. 1112 N. Lamar, 472-1674. www.food4fitness.com. \$\$

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BURGER JOINT: WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Hand-cut fries and chocolate-cinnamon shakes draw a comfortable, mixed crowd. 8600 Burnet Rd., 458-6544. www.waterlooicehouse.com. \$

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BECOMING CHE

Benicio Del Toro on the method, the madness, and the merchandising

BY MARC SAVLOV

At four hours and 22 minutes, Steven Soderbergh's two-part biopic of Argentine-born Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara may seem to some audiences to be nearly as grueling as the revolution itself. But forget about them: Benicio Del Toro, without qualm the best character actor of his generation, simply is Che, and he embodies the "guerrillero heroico" in every way and with all of his fervent, asthmatic, conflicted, and conflicting Marxist manners intact and true. It may not be Soderbergh's best film (*Traffic* is still No. 1 in our book), but no one can argue against Del Toro's tour de force performance, which is a veritable acting class in and of itself.

The *Austin Chronicle* spoke to Del Toro from his home in Puerto Rico and got the lowdown on the importance of being Benicio being Che.

Austin Chronicle: When did you first learn the story of Che Guevara?

Benicio Del Toro: I was living in Puerto Rico until ninth grade, which would have been around 1982, and the T-shirts were not hip then, the key chains were not hip. The times were a little bit different, and so growing up I really didn't learn much about Che from school. The first time I heard his name was in a Rolling Stones song.

AC: Seriously? Which one?

BDT: It's a song off their *Emotional Rescue* album called "Indian Girl." There's a line that says, "My father, he ain't no Che Guevara." So if I knew anything about Che, it was that he was a *bandolero*, you know, a guerilla, maybe scary. And it was not until 1989 when I was in Mexico City doing a movie that I went into a bookshop and bought a collection of his letters.

AC: What movie was that?

BDT: I did a small part in *License to Kill*, the James Bond movie, and when I was out, I went into the streets and bought the book and started reading his writing. At the time, I was, like, reading without being forced to read? And I had read some Hemingway short stories and Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, and I remember [Che's] letters reminding me a lit-

tle bit of that writing. It was what I considered good writing. It moved me. It was witty, it was smart, and there was a social awareness to it. He also auto-criticized himself in those letters. And he was about my age at the time he was writing these letters. It just grabbed me, and I realized that there was this whole other side to this guy that I had been unaware of until then. In the West, that other side was kept in the closet for so long. He didn't become a cinematic idea or a possibility until 1997, when Jon Lee Anderson's biography, *Che [Guevara]: A Revolutionary Life*, was published. That was when producer Laura Bickford approached me.

AC: How did you prep for becoming Che? That had to be daunting.

BDT: With any movie you do, there are two key things. You have to learn about the character, as much as you can, in a limited amount of time, because there's a clock that begins ticking the minute you decide you're going to do the movie. And then you just have to understand what the scenes are about and then go with that. You know? There's no secret to it, you just have to understand the scenes, and then if you know the person and you know why he was in that situation or how



Benicio Del Toro in *Che*

he reacted in that situation, then that helps you understand it even better. That was the main thing. Understanding what the scenes were about. Because there's a lot of things you can do with mannerisms, the way he walked and the sound of how he talked. But at some point, that all has to go out the window, especially if you're working for Steven. There's no time for, you know, "We're going to paint this perfect." It's more like, "Be in the moment, and we'll capture it, and that's as perfect as it can be." Initially it was stressful, but then it became a good way to work, because you're always moving forward.

AC: How do you account for the enduring popularity of Che Guevara 42 years after his death? There's not a dorm room the world over that hasn't been witness to Alberto Korda's famous photograph. And how do you feel about the merchandising of Che the Revolutionary?

BDT: I think at the beginning I felt kind of weird about it, but then I started thinking about it and came to the conclusion that a big majority of the people that recognize that image or own it or are attracted to it, they understand an essence about the guy. Maybe not everything, but they'll know that this is a guy that didn't sell out; he's an underdog like

David from David and Goliath. There's something there that they pick up on, the "Yes I can" of it or not differentiating between skin colors. I think that they comprehend the essence of the guy. When you see it on a bottle of wine or whatever, it can be weird, but I think that the good outweighs the bad.

AC: Now that Fidel Castro has handed over the reins to his brother, Raul, where do you see Cuba heading these days? Do you see it returning to that sort of risqué anti-glamour of the prerevolutionary years?

BDT: I don't think Cuba's going to go to that place, but the country is definitely moving forward. I think the real question is, what is the American government going to do? That's the big question. It all depends on whether or not the U.S. allows the resumption of trade with Cuba. If that happens, I think it could be very beneficial for both countries. What's going to happen with this new administration coming in? I know Obama has said he wants to sit down and talk to leaders that the current administration considers to be, you know, Axis of Evil or whatever. Which I think is a great beginning. ■

Che opens in Austin on Friday, Jan. 23. See Film Listings, p.70, for review.

REMEMBERING ANA SISNETT

Activist, artist, technomama, and true friend

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

Writer, artist, and community activist Ana Sisnett died last week after a long battle with ovarian cancer. Her passing comes at a moment in history when the anticipation of new beginnings sparkles in the air. And yet, this new world – a world without Sisnett – doesn't quite make sense. The world without Sisnett is like a clear night sky without the moon.

I did not know Sisnett the way others did. I was not among her close family of friends or the countless individuals who worked with her in her many efforts to empower women and communities of color here in Austin, in Texas, and around the world. She did this most recently while executive director of Austin Free-Net, a nonprofit that works to narrow the digital divide, until treatment for her illness

caused her to step down. Alternately known as a "technomama" and a respected community technology leader, she was an early blogger (www.mamawire.easyjournal.com). Her posts reveal a thoughtful, articulate, passionate, and playful mind. There was plenty of work to be done, but there was always time to hang. She supported ALLGO, a statewide organization for queer people of color, and other progressive groups. Community media, anti-oppression workshops, and HIV/AIDS awareness were among the projects she tackled through advocacy, performance, writing, and eventually painting. "Her activism," says friend and New York-based theatre artist Daniel Alexander Jones, "was



Ana Sisnett

like breathing, always present and consistent, never for show."

My first encounter with Sisnett remains vivid. I had just moved to Texas in the late Eighties when a group of new friends invited me to San Antonio to see singer-songwriter Tracy Chapman perform at an amphitheatre. Sisnett was

already there when we arrived, and I sat behind her, immediately intrigued with this regal woman who effortlessly commanded attention. Between songs, Chapman made a comment about surviving heartbreak, to which I sputtered something revealing that I knew the subject well. Sisnett turned to me with an ecstatic "Oh!" her hands thrown into the air, then down to cover mine with hers, clutching them warmly as she bowed

her head, then turned back to Chapman. Something about Sisnett hearing me, the warmth of her touch, and more distinctly, the depth of her compassion – fierce and immediate – added up to a feeling as if I'd been anointed, as Jones calls it, by "her singular spirit."

I never saw Sisnett dance salsa or heard her recite her celebrated, signature poem, "How to Eat a Mango." In the days since her passing, I've been stirred to consider not only her many contributions but the work that remains undone. Her passing has made many bereft, but her legacy is profound. It's time for the rest of us to get stepping.

Sisnett is survived by partner Priscilla Hale, her children Meredith Sisnett and Ghamal Webb, two grandchildren, and a large circle of friends and colleagues.

A public memorial service for Sisnett will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 600 E. 50th, Saturday, Jan. 24, at 1pm. ■

Secular Cinema in the Holy Land

Screenwriter Noah Stollman talks about how to make a movie about Jerusalem without taking on 2,000 years of tumult

BY JOSH ROSENBLATT



Someone to Run With

Quick – name the most important legacy from the 5,000-year history of the Jewish people. If you said Mosaic law, circumcision, the Temple of Solomon, the Psalms of David, the movies, the Great American Songbook, *Your Show of Shows*, the land of Israel, or celebrity kabbalists, you're close but wrong. The most important legacy of the Jews is the idea that religious and cultural traditions can flourish in exile, that local beliefs can go global. This may not sound so remarkable in our age of satellite-enabled remote healing and cable televangelism, but at the time of the first Jewish diaspora in 722BC, it was a world-changing notion, one that would open the floodgates of monotheism and lay the foundation for Western society as we know and tolerate it.

Some of the fruits of that 3,000-year-old exile will be on display this week at the seventh annual Austin Jewish Film Festival – cinematic dispatches from sons and daughters of Abraham living in Belgium, Brazil, France, Mexico, Slovakia, Tunisia, and elsewhere.

The film opening this year's festival is *Someone to Run With*, the 2006 adaptation of Israeli author David Grossman's bestselling novel about a teenage boy in Jerusalem who finds himself in a Dickensian world of adolescent poverty, music, romance, and gangsterism after he decides to return a dog to a mysterious young transient girl. Winner of several awards from the Israeli Film Academy and Miami International Film Festival, *Someone to Run With* was adapted by Noah Stollman, an American-born Jew who grew up in Jerusalem before moving back to his native New York in 1995 to make his way as a filmmaker before going back to Israel to make his first feature film. Call it a double reverse diaspora with a self-exilic twist. "The U.S.," Stollman says, "was always the promised land to me, the place you had to go to

become who you wanted to be." And now he's coming to Austin, where he'll be presenting his film at the Arbor this Saturday night.

The *Chronicle* recently spoke with Stollman about his experience writing *Someone to Run With*, his ambivalent relationship with his adopted homeland, and the role tradition plays in the mind of the modern artist.

Austin Chronicle: How did the opportunity to write *Someone to Run With* come up?

Noah Stollman: I had been back in the United States for a few years after finishing film school in Jerusalem, but I still had friends and colleagues back in Israel, and I was developing a few projects with them. One of the production companies I was in touch with had bought the rights to the novel. The author, David Grossman, is a very savvy businessman, and he had sold the film rights and the TV rights separately. The TV rights were in Israel, and the film rights he had sold to a European producer. The director, Oded Davidoff, and I had been hired to create a miniseries based on the novel. Meanwhile, the European producer, who worked out of Vienna, was starting to do preproduction on the feature-film version. So he already had a script and was starting to produce it while we were producing the miniseries.

To make a long story short, we had the luck to be first. And when the European producer came to Israel and saw our footage, he felt that what we had done was the definitive adaptation of the book. And David Grossman was very much behind us as well. And so the film rights reverted to us, and within the space of a month, we basi-

cally cut the film down to a two-hour version from a 3½-hour version, just in time for it to open the 2006 Jerusalem Film Festival. And it got released in theatres throughout Israel after that.

AC: How did the film do in Israel?

NS: It did very well. The only problem is that it seems like every time I go to release a movie in Israel, a war breaks out. [Laughs] A few weeks after *Someone to Run With* hit the theatres in 2006, the second Lebanon War broke out. It was a time when missiles were falling, and theatrical releases, obviously, took a back seat. And then a few weeks ago, I launched another Israeli TV series that went on the air about the same time the recent Gaza situation started. So it's been like a recurring theme for me.

AC: Did you feel a lot of pressure adapting a bestselling book? Did you worry about being true to its spirit?

NS: No, that's not something you take into consideration when you're adapting a novel. My only goal was to make it into a good movie. But it was difficult, because in the book

a lot of the characters' backgrounds and history are communicated through flashbacks and memories. You learn a lot about their psychology through their backstories and internal monologues. And in film you have to translate that into action and dialogue.

Also, both Oded and I grew up in Jerusalem and were teenagers there. So for us it was a way to revisit Jerusalem and to portray a side of the city that hadn't been shown in popular culture, especially in feature films. We wanted to show that Jerusalem is just like any other town, with a darker, edgier, more sinister side that most people aren't familiar with.

"It seems like every time I go to release a movie in Israel, a war breaks out."
– Screenwriter Noah Stollman

The seventh annual Austin Jewish Film Festival runs Jan. 24-30 at various locations in Austin and Georgetown. Opening-night film *Someone to Run With* screens Saturday, Jan. 24, at 7pm at the Regal Arbor Cinema, with screenwriter Noah Stollman in attendance. For full lineup and ticket information, see www.austijnff.org.

Jerusalem isn't just a city of religious and historical importance; it's a real, breathing city.

AC: As an artist writing about this seedier side of Jerusalem, do you feel like there's a fight between people's expectations of Israel – especially non-Israelis' expectations – and your interests? Do you feel that others view Israel as either an entirely symbolic, religious, holy place or a place that's in a state of constant conflict, that there's a one-dimensional view of what Israel and Jerusalem are?

NS: [Laughs] That's a multilayered question ... and I think it can be answered in one word: yes. Totally. Certainly when you're portraying Jerusalem – even to Israelis [and] definitely to people elsewhere – people tend to think of the Wailing Wall or the West Bank or other religious and politically volatile sites; they may not necessarily think of the drug trade or a Fagin-like impresario who imprisons teenage street musicians in a halfway home. And of course some of that is imagined, and some of it is based on truth. It's like any place. Once you've lived there and you know the ins and outs, you learn more than what people on the outside can perceive, especially in a place as symbolic as the holy city of Jerusalem, which we wanted to portray in the secular, civilian, quotidian way – a place with familial strife and romance and adventure. A place not necessarily weighed down by 2,000 years of history.

AC: There's an idea that one of the jobs of an artist is to free him- or herself from that weight you're talking about. Obviously tradition and history in a place like Jerusalem can be particularly heavy. Do you feel like that's something you deal with, or is that something you got away from when you came to the U.S.?

NS: Growing up in Jerusalem, you don't always feel the weight of those 2,000 years of history, but when you make a movie about Jerusalem, it's definitely there, and you're thinking about the fact that you're making a movie that may go against the expectations and preconceptions of viewers. But that's what we were aiming for: to show Jerusalem as a sort of multicultural city of Babel, where there's a mix of people and traditions and a thriving secular underground.

History is definitely something you're aware of growing up there, but I wouldn't say that it's oppressive. Wait, you know what: I strike my previous sentence; in certain ways it is oppressive. There is a certain weight that can suck you into political confrontations whether you like it or not. Whether it's the issue of suicide bombings or any other manifestation of religious fanaticism on either side that seem to come to a boiling point in that place, you're always in danger of being sucked into the conversation. But we couldn't take on all the aspects of the city in one film. And we weren't really interested in doing that anyway.

But on a personal level, yeah, there's definitely a lot going on there, maybe even too much. Which may be why I had to leave. ■

Manic Men

BY BELINDA ACOSTA



For devoted “TV Eye” readers, this may be obvious, but I have made mistakes. I have been wrong. Sometimes slightly wrong, sometimes glaringly wrong, wrong, wrong. I was reminded of this when I was watching the screener of *Trust Me*, the new drama on TNT. I watched it twice, trying to figure out what I liked about the show and, more importantly, what was wrong with it. What was off about it? I couldn’t put my finger on it until I realized what was missing – and that would be **David E. Kelley**. Yes, the same David E. Kelley I’ve trounced many times before for being annoying (*Ally McBeal*) and foolish (*Snoops*). And yet, his name came to mind after I watched *Trust Me*. The show is desperate for Kelley, who’s made a career of creating quirky, sometimes annoying, but ultimately engaging characters. The Denny Crane-Alan Shore friendship of *Boston Legal* was marked as much by its warmth as its peculiarities. Unfortunately, *Trust Me* – which appears to have been influenced, if not outright inspired, by Kelley’s work – is in the hands of two former advertising pros who’ve assembled a slick-looking product with an appealing cast and an insider perspective of the ad game but little substance. It’s a shame, too. There’s much to like about *Trust Me*.

Eric McCormack (*Will & Grace*) and **Tom Cavanagh** (*Love Monkey*, *Ed*) star as Mason McGuire and Conner (just Conner), friends and working partners in a high-powered Chicago ad agency, an industry that demands the best and the worst from its people, sometimes at questionable cost. (A brilliantly apoplectic flare-out by *Life on Mars*’ **Jason O’Mara**, who plays Mason and Conner’s tightly wound boss, single-handedly makes the pilot episode worth watching.) Mason is the art side of the team, a stable family man trying to be a decent guy in what can be a cutthroat business. Conner is the talented copywriter and playboy, always willing to put pleasure before work, often leaving Mason in a lurch but always coming through in the end.

Cavanagh has a history of playing lovable nuts and louts (as in his recurring roles on *Eli Stone* and *Scrubs*). He brings out the high-voltage crazy from his bag of tricks for

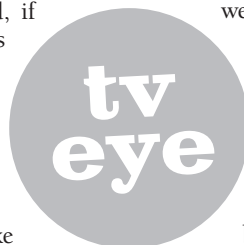
this role as well. While Conner is supposed to be the off-the-wall side of the coin, one can’t help but wish someone would lace his coffee with Ritalin. Apparently, dealing with Conner’s kinetic energy is worth it because he’s brilliant. But it’s the “show, don’t tell” rule in storytelling that gets broken here. We’re told Conner is brilliant but don’t get much evidence of it. (Another challenge of centering a series among a bunch of brilliant creatives – you kind of have to deliver, week after week, especially when so much energy is spent telling the viewer how imaginative and inventive the world is.)

McCormack’s Mason is much more grounded and interesting, perhaps because we get to see more of his personal life and because the changes that occur early in the series directly affect him. The show’s creators seem to have a better understanding of Mason and his interior life. Not so with Conner. So, when Conner has a hissy fit over Mason’s promotion, it seems baseless, contrived, and, well, who cares? Except for some talk of old times and a few references to old photos, the depth of their friendship is a mystery.

The supporting cast is particularly good. **Mike Damus** and **Geoffrey Arend** as Tom and Hector, two junior members of Mason’s creative group, are low-key and arrogant in that youthful way that is both off-putting and amusing at once. **Monica Potter** as Sarah Krajicek-Hunter, an award-winning copywriter with a reputation for being difficult, is a yappy, high-strung antidote to Tom and Hector’s slacker vibe. **Griffin Dunne**, whose last big role was as the ravaged Jack in *An American Werewolf in London*, has kept a low profile since then, making TV appearances and working behind the camera. In *Trust Me*, he has a meaty role and an even greater character name: Tony Mink. The competitive creative director over the entire group, Tony is feeling the clock running out on his career. Dunne and McCormack have an easy rapport, and it’s their relationship that seems the most grounded and rich with possibility.

But who knows? I’ve been wrong before. *Trust Me* premieres Monday, Jan. 26, at 9pm on TNT.

E-mail Belinda Acosta at tveye@austinchronicle.com.



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music

This Euphoria

In dreams with David Garza

BY DOUG FREEMAN

Tuesday night at the Continental Club, David Garza steps onstage immaculately suave. Hair slicked back, black sport coat and shirt unbuttoned to his chest, he surveys the crowd with his head hung down as he tunes his acoustic guitar. With a flick of the head, Garza slides the sound check into the opening song.

The cold January air rifles through the back of the club each time the door opens, but the room is slowly warming, bodies beginning to move. The crowd crawls closer, drawn to the sweep of Garza's soulful, staccato voice, slowly closing the wide swath of dance floor in front of the stage. Garza's dark eyes constantly dance across the room with each passing song, his half-cocked smile cutting into his steep cheekbones.

As if by some mysterious cue, rhythm returned back to him from the crowd, Garza suddenly knows he has them. He drops the jacket into his guitar case on the side of the stage and trades his acoustic for a cherry-red electric. The girls now lined at the front of the stage begin to move with the propulsion from two drum kits, and the room seems to darken, their eyes closed, fingers flitting and hips swaying. Guys stand to the side watching the seduction in each caress of a note, themselves also moving now.

As Garza breaks into "Discoball World," nothing exists beyond the dance floor. The swirl of blissed-out brothers and dreadlocked white girls envelopes the room. Garza's eyes glint with a mischievous flash, the thrill of manifesting this euphoric enclave, before disappearing behind closed lids and the song's closing fevered plea:

"Can I dance with you, baby? Can I dance with you?"

Only Connect

"Why are people at a live show?" asks Garza, 37, the next day over lunch. "The way I see things is, they're at a show to be moved, physically, spiritually, emotionally – on an intellectual level, maybe, maybe not. Most people are there to have their asses moved, so if you free their ass, their mind will follow. It's the natural progression. If your body believes it, then your mind's going to be more receptive."

Sitting at the counter of the Frisco on Burnet Road, Garza dashes Tabasco sauce onto his french fries as the waiter refills his coffee mug. The clatter of plates and thick

air of grill grease spills out from the kitchen. Garza melds easily into the diner aesthetic, an appreciation for anonymous camaraderie and places where even the middle of the day just feels like a runover from the night before.

Yet he never seems completely at ease, either, pivoting in perpetual motion atop the bar stool, eyes glancing furtively around the diner. He's simultaneously guarded and free-flowing when he talks, expounding quietly in quick spurts as his ideas jump with a stream of consciousness that mirrors his music.

"What one cannot help is the pace of your song, of your story, whether it's a wonderful story or not," Garza offers. "You can't help your pacing. It's the pace my mind moves at. I'm not going to slow it down."

"I just want the song to keep up with the thought," he continues after a brief pause and a bite of his grilled cheese sandwich. "Sometimes eight bars go by, and you can take people eight different places versus keeping them in one place. Words have power that way, especially when it's involved in shaking an ass and moving. Then people aren't listening to the words; they're hearing them, but they're not listening to them. Especially when you're in a crowd, you're not sitting there analyzing."

Garza digresses into constant contradictions, but with a Whitmanesque nonchalance that understands all perspectives to be true. He denies he's a storyteller in one statement and insists upon album narratives in the next. He extols the digital-music revolution but frets that music has become simply ones and zeros.

It's not surprising to find Garza's mind jumping across contradictions given that his music revels in unlikely connections unwound through both trembling tenor ballads and excited alliteration spun atop throbbing beats. Few artists manage the streetwise

scat and hyperintellectual allusion Garza unloads, lines such as, "I

saw you, and my heart skanked in kinky ragga beats, like some Sly and Robbie crossed with Shelley and Keats," from the title track of his new album, *Dream Delay*.

"The jiving is a gift, and talking trash, you know, basically ranting," he shrugs. "But you can read too much, get too involved in the world of words, and music is beyond – way, way, way beyond – the world of words. The

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TODD V. WOLFSON

hard part is shutting up long enough to let the music do its job, to just lift you up. If anything, you can choke a song with words.

"You can convey a lot through words, but lyrics aren't necessarily words," he adds. "You can't take too much at one time, because you just want to feel it, you know?"

There's a certain Zen rationality to his outlook, Garza a dweller on the threshold catch-

ing glimpses of something bigger, grander, through those moments

when communication and understanding break down into possibilities more affective. His songs are likewise populated with outsiders searching for that instant of connection, from the "extra virgins" and "laptop loners" of "Discoball World" on 1998's *This Euphoria* to the "border brooders" that "club rhythms and cannibalize rhymes" in *Delay*'s "Minority Boys Got \$." The conduit of connection always

returns to the music, even as it's accepted as fleeting, intuitive, and intangible.

"It's the chase, the journey," Garza insists. "We're not going to get it, so we might as well have a good time getting there in our minds. That thing is what we can't control, the thing that we are all struggling and stuttering for words to convey that can't be conveyed in words. That's the musical language or language of cinema or the language of having a child, of skateboarding or skydiving or whatever. Something that is an action that is not in the prison of the world of words. It doesn't matter if they're in Spanish, Italian, English, or whatever; they're still all boxes."

A Strange Mess of Flowers

Garza has always wandered a restless path. Born the fourth of five children in Irving, Texas, he grew up on a soundtrack of mariachi

CONTINUED ON P.52

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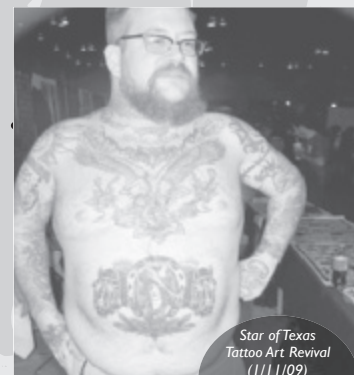
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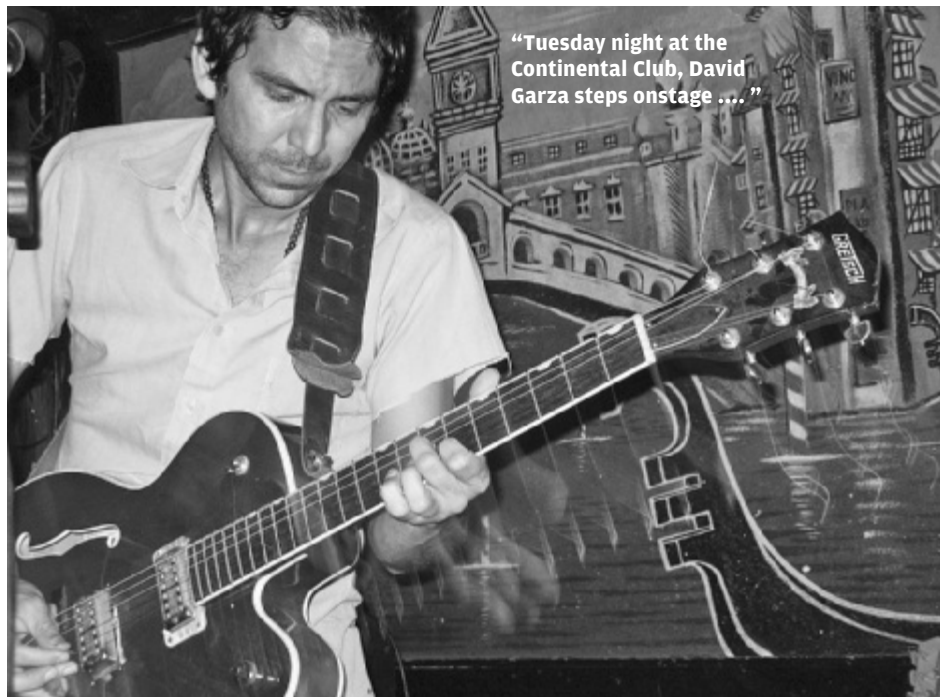


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TODD V. WOLFSON

music and conjunto cut against the Beatles and Hank Williams. He was already a North Texas notable when he landed in Austin in 1989 on a music scholarship to the University of Texas.

Garza spent more time busking on the campus' West Mall than in its classrooms, fronting the aptly named trio of freshman music majors Twang Twang Shock-a-Boom. He eventually left school and the band to light out on a successful solo career, touring incessantly across the state, packing clubs, and unloading thousands of recordings from his van. Garza rated as the No. 2 Musician of the Decade by *Chronicle* readers in the 1990s, second behind only Stevie Ray Vaughan.

Not surprisingly, the majors soon came calling. Garza signed to Atlantic, releasing *This Euphoria* and then *Overdub* in 2001. The compromise and glacial pace of the

major label system chafed with Garza's DIY independence, and he lashed back in songs such as *Overdub*'s "Say Baby": "If they ain't down with your dub lingo, if they don't hear no single, when you're trying to get on the radio, don't sweat when you quit yourself and go solo."

"One thing that I know to be true is that equating the recording with a dollar sign is the worse idea for any musician ever," Garza declares. "That's something that the managers and the industry people just don't want to believe, because what else are they going to sell them?"

Garza has always maintained an absurdly prolific recording output, yet *Dream Delay* marks his first disc since 2004's 4-CD set of personal favorites, *A Strange Mess of Flowers*. Instead, he's released a string of EPs online, seven in the past five years.



DAVID GARZA *Dream Delay* (Cosmica)

Between the technological tangle that seals *Dream Delay*, Ministry's Al Jourgensen himself hollering amidst the miasma of "Minority Boys Got \$," and David Garza's street-beat lyricism — "cloudy as Cocteau," rampant as Jim Carroll — writhes Austin's Prince. The Cured melodicism of opener "2 Sinners in the Garden" ("We are tight like two sinners in the garden") runs into the succeeding Spoon spazz of "Dead French Dudes," Garza scrolling through Franglish ("j'ne pas parles Paris y tu na hablas Tejanese"), while "Just the Bass" kicks with a spoken rap that gives way to pillow-talk stream of subconsciousness ("fly medieval maidens maypoling") and proves as seductive as non-sensical yet vulnerable. The digital density of dance track "Love Back" contrasts piano ballad "Wake Up" and the hazy title cut, featuring Fiona Apple where Lindsey Buckingham would've chorused Christine McVie and Stevie Nicks. Apple also helps wrap proceedings on Gershwin-kissed closer "Loveless." Ten tracks at a crisp 38 minutes submerge *Dream Delay* into David Garza's lover-man romanticism. As he instructs on the mariachi *Kid A* of "Be My On & On," "Unplug the DJ, DG is here to play."

★★★

— Raoul Hernandez

"It's immediate, and it's free," he says of the digital downloads. "It's a real offering. It's a gift, and to be able to do this is a gift. I have more than enough songs, so why let stuff sit there? If you've got it and it's fresh, serve it. If it coincides with your dream album project, great; if not, so what? At least it gets to be of use to people instead of just sitting there."

"It's an amazing time, because I don't feel like I'm part of the music industry at all," he continues enthusiastically. "It's a blast. It feels like no one's a part of the music industry; everyone's just here. But really, the writers, the musicians, everybody on all sides are going to just have to relax. That's the key. Everybody's freakin' out about what's going to happen next, but we don't know. I won't starve. You can always sell some guitars or whatever."

Between Garza's relentless touring and slew of online offerings, *Dream Delay* was recorded on the 17,000-acre retreat of Sonic Ranch studios, 30 miles southeast of El Paso. Garza laid down nearly all the instrumentation himself, serving as his own producer, but he had a specific sound that he wanted already shaped in his mind, his vision for the album sprung forth almost fully formed.

"This record just came to me," he says. "In 2004, I knew the story; I knew the line and the arc and the crux of this. I knew what happens. It was like a cool dream that I would find myself daydreaming about. I knew then that this record has to be called *Dream Delay*; it has to have a song about the dead French dudes, has to have a song about the bass. It just does."

"So I just followed that. It's my *Quadrophenia*, my *Tommy*. Why else make an album? Songs are songs. You can put them on the Web, on your MySpace, but the album as a whole? Maybe it goes back to the story thing. This album is my story."

What exactly that story may be is difficult to decipher, but *Dream Delay* moves within a familiar set of themes for Garza.

"It's an amazing time, because I don't feel like I'm part of the music industry at all," he continues enthusiastically. "It's a blast. It feels like no one's a part of the music industry."

From the opening track "2 Sinners in the Garden" to the closing Rufus Wainwright-esque piano ballad "Loveless," the album pursues that moment of freedom and connection, the ecstasy of release and security of love. It's in the constant movement toward that ephemeral, seemingly unattainable paradise that glimpses of beauty are allowed to emerge.

In a sense, it's the same story Garza's been chasing his entire life.

"You just have to move faster," says Garza with a flash of a smile. "That's the trick, move faster than the speed of boredom."

Lullaby of Barland

At the Continental Club, they're still moving. Nowhere does the man onstage seem more comfortable than orchestrating a pulsing groove that runs through the crowd like an electric jolt.

For 3½ hours every Tuesday night, this is the world David Garza spins. The unchoreographed set list is predicated upon the scene unfolding before him, an anticipation of what will connect, what will move the asses. It's a spell that can't last and is more precious for its frailty.

Up front, the girls just keep dancing. ■

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THE GOURDS

Haymaker! (Yep Roc)

Few acts can make the tenacity of merely surviving sound celebratory, so maybe the Gourds really were made for these times. The local quintet's 10th studio offering is polished and direct but still distinctly and eclectically Gourdian, from the growling New Orleans blues-funk of "The Way You Can Get" to the weary, slurring, back-porch banjo of "Hey Thurman." Yet the Gourds have always been as aesthetically outside the norm as they are stylistically unique, and *Haymaker!* revels in a mad world, whether exuberantly escaping it on kick-off "Country Love" or rocking the bread-line on "New Dues." The loping "All the Way to Jericho" winds Kevin "Shinyribs" Russell's rough verses into a wistfully poppy chorus, and the keepin' on mentality of "Shreveport" cuts Cajun to a methamphetamine trucker rush. Misfits and outcasts abound, from the hitchhiking Corpus activist in "Bridgett" to the outsourced and unemployed of "Luddite Juice," though the Gourds take on impending hardship with the determined wink of a hurricane party. The raucous "Six Days on the Road" rip of "Tex-Mex Mile" serenades South Congress' seedy side, but closer "Tighter" encapsulates the joy of fleeting victories, even if "All yer left with's a record and a past kinda checkered." **(CD release: Friday, Jan. 30, Antone's.)**

★★★★★

– Doug Freeman

THE ARCHIBALDS

Easy Living (Superpop!)

Joey Thompson, principle songwriter for the Archibalds, has a knack for bringing out the gold in other people's trash. His character sketches spring to life on the band's second full-length, *Easy Living*, with scandalous tales such as "Me & Your Sister," "Gold Teeth," and "Come on In," while the small-stakes malaise and junkyard folk in "Hood Rats" and the title track split the difference between the Gourds and Beck's early slacker raps. From the spaghetti Western swing of "You Tell Me" and old-timey waltz "Milking the Cow" to the off-kilter funeral march "Cemetery Songs" and plaintive "High Water," the Archibalds rein in and refine the eclecticism of the quartet's 2007 debut, *O Camellia*, thanks largely to the superb production and harmonies of bassist Seth Gibbs. In doing so, *Easy Living* captures life on the bottom rung in all its rusted glory, almost like a broken-down, modern version of Doug Sahm's *Groover's Paradise*.

★★★★★

– Austin Powell



UME

Sunshower EP

A forcefully lusty, rich sonic mosaic, Ume's five-song *Sunshower EP* is a more polished version of its classically dark, serrated work. The local trio still plucks from a hearty buffet of influences, just a bit more discriminately. "East of Hercules" opens with vocalist Lauren Larson's panging guitar vista, nodding to the bombast of the Pretenders' early work with a more clandestine salute to Team Dresch. Hubby Eric Larson holds steady on bass throughout "Pendulum" and "The Conductor" as timing shifts and Jeff Barrera's sometimes-audacious drums peek out from behind the fairer Larson's aggressive bawls and strident riffs. The pretty intro on the subtly sexy title track imparts the smoky



grace of its singer's vox and maintains a Sonic Youth thread, just as on "The Means," though both get stuck in the Blonde Redhead vocal camp. *Sunshower* demonstrates Ume's shift to a slightly more refined, though still amalgamated, sound as consistent as it is vanquishing. **(CD release: Saturday, Jan. 24, Mohawk.)**

★★★★★

– Francesca Camillo

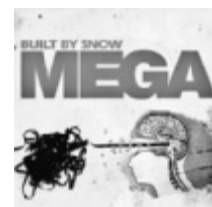
BUILT BY SNOW

Mega

Built by Snow's nerdy novelty appears easy to write off, the electro-popsters wearing their brains on their sleeves in a "Giant Robot Attack" and the "Science of Love." Fortunately, the local quartet's quirk is cut with an emotional sincerity that's not only endearing but at times surprisingly apt, as with the cleverly employed metaphor of "Algemetric Touch." With keys and guitars caught in a swirl of fuzz and frantic pace (nine songs clocking just over 20 minutes), BBS' debut LP bites like a geekier Weezer. "Implode Alright" and "Invaders" successfully integrate bleeps and samples, "A-Beta" bursts like the hand-clapped pop of fellow locals Belaïre, and "All the Weird Kids Know" even unloads a *Pac-Man* simile in Devo-esque fashion. The band members' heads may be stuck in the video-game glow, but Built by Snow can't hide its nostalgic, mixtape heart buried beneath an overstimulated world. **(CD release: Saturday, Jan. 24, Club de Ville.)**

★★★★★

– Doug Freeman



WOOZYHELMET

Get Down (Soda Pop Sounds)

Woozyhelmet has distilled some of the late-night debauchery since its house-party debut back in 1997. From the trio's thrashy post-punk naying now radiate traces of New Wave, Pavement, the Dead Milkmen, and the Pixies on *Get Down*, the group's third



full-length. They catapult into brief Fugazi-esque opener "New Bear" and follow with a barrage of lighthearted, googly eyed tunes about being fucked up, indie rock karaoke, airline eye candy, and other barmy tendencies. Octopus Project's Toto Miranda hardly tiptoes into the booming intro for "If Not for Pants" when guitarist/singer Jay Crossley steps out to meet him, ruminating on thoughts of arson and being thankful. Meanwhile, the sunny melodies of the Beach Boys intersect with apoplectic guitar bursts and Brandi DiPietro's firm fingering in "We Support the Italian Stewardesses." With each indulgent and pardoning listen, this album edges closer into your daily rotation.

★★★★★

– Francesca Camillo

ATHENS V. SPARTA

The History of the Peloponnesian War (Absence of Romance)

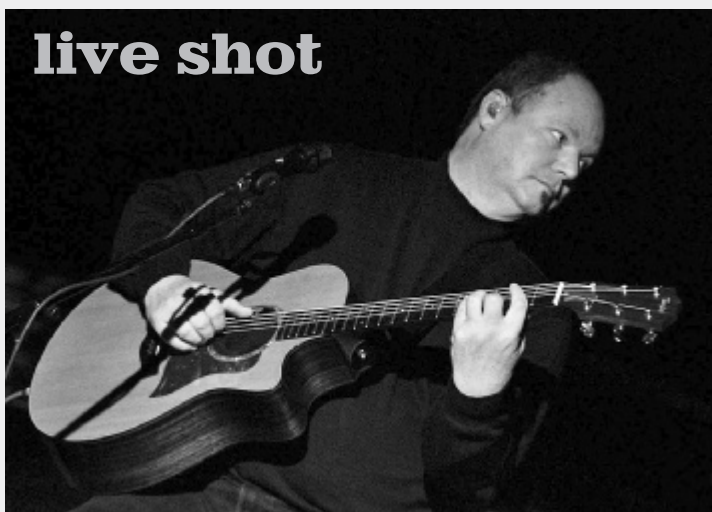
Athens v. Sparta is exactly what the title suggests: a history of the Peloponnesian War of 431-404BC. Conceived and created by Charlie Roadman of locals F for Fake, the album sets narration by Hyde Park Theatre's Ken Webster from the histories of Thucydides and Xenophon to pleasantly downbeat electronic pop. Roadman's band-mate Kevin Higginbotham plays Nate Dogg to Webster's Warren G, crooning melodic interludes that provide imagined first-person perspective on the conflict. Such a project is necessarily somewhat quixotic: Thucydides' account alone runs more than 300 pages, of which the album can cover only a fraction. So, despite Roadman's best efforts (including an attractive lyric sheet and map), a listener coming to the CD in ignorance will require further reading in order to know what the heck is going on and why. Still, incanting the further study of history is hardly a major flaw. **(CD release: Saturday, Jan. 24, Cactus Cafe.)**

★★★★★

– Daniel Mee



live shot



GARY MILLER

CHRISTOPHER CROSS

One World Theatre, Jan. 18

Nearly 30 years after his five-Grammy debut, Christopher Cross (né Geppert) returned to Austin last Sunday for a pair of storyteller-style shows at One World Theatre. Born in San Antonio, Cross played guitar in 1960s teen rock combo the Psychos before landing in Flash, a cover outfit that traversed Texas during the next decade. He was signed to Warner Bros. after a performance at Austin's Alamo Roadhouse in October 1978. Introduced here by KLBJ's Charlie Hodge, Cross and his fourpiece band opened the second show with "Never Be the Same." It was like stepping into an adult contemporary time machine set to 1980 – the last gasp of West Coast studio polish bravely asserting itself in the sneering faces of New Wavers with sideways haircuts. The genteel, capacity crowd responded with fealty that went well beyond applause of recognition. Cross strategically

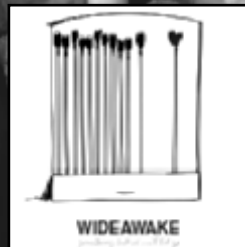
parceled out his hits across the 90-minute set, leaving plenty of room for lesser-known songs from his post-Warner catalog. "Deputy Dan" recounted Cross' ambition to follow in Steely Dan's chop-happy footsteps, while "Walking in Avalon" elbowed boundaries of polite conversation with a lyric about taking mushrooms. Without 48 tracks to work with, most of the arrangement coverage fell to saxophonist David Mann, who filled gaps as needed and faithfully reproduced the emblematic solo from 1981's "Arthur's Theme (Best That You Can Do)." Sadly, this approach couldn't nudge main set closer "Ride Like the Wind" out of second gear. Hearing the song sans Michael McDonald's "such a long way to go" was like eating french fries without ketchup. Even so, the audience clapped along and gave Cross a standing ovation.

– Greg Beets

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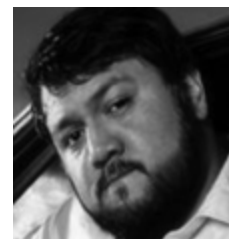
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BUSINESS DEAL BAND LOTTO

(Business Deal)

Business Deal's 2005 compilation followed a Top 40 format. Now, the local label's *Lotto* goes to the next level with the luck of the draw. Thirty-three names were placed in a hat, along with random instruments, out of which nine bands were formed. Each act wrote two songs based on topics also placed in a hat. The result is a diverse collection of weirdo pop culled from members of River City scenesters Cavedweller, Finally Punk, Shapes Have Fangs, Total Abuse, Pataphysics, Belaire, and more. Mystic Chainsaw serves up a lo-fi chunk of booty bass about baby fat, P.O.T.'s "Service the Eagle" is a delirious mash of dreamy pop, and Glowstick Mountain's "Grandma" is a sweet, kazoo-filled ode to the sexual preference of a member of the greatest generation. Closer "Suicide, the Band" proves the most unlistenable track here, but once again, Business Deal proves thinking outside the box can win the *Lotto*.

★★★

— Audra Schroeder

GREYHOUNDS

¡No Más! (Luther)

"I'll take you to the KFC and buy you a combo dinner," sings guitarist Andrew Trube on "It's Alright" from ¡No Más!. The platter serves as an apt metaphor for this song cycle, unpretentious funky grooves dripping with grease and thick organ riffs oozing like gravy. The Austin-via-L.A. duo of Trube and B-3 tickler Anthony Farrell is joined by local drummer Dave "Sniz" Robinson on the majority of the set. While Greyhounds are more Brother Jack McDuff than Archie Bell & the Drells, "Tight It Up." will have you dancing just as well as you walk, and "Clap Your Hands" succeeds in its mission to put your palms together. Opening teaser "Thunderbird" is piercing (an inside joke perhaps?) and the lyrics secondary, but ¡No Más! won't cry uncle where groove's concerned.

★★★

— Thomas Fawcett



PUBLIC OFFENDERS

Drop Jewels

(A Call to Men)

The Public Offenders' nods to Tupac Shakur extend far beyond "A Girl Named Brenda" on the Austin quintet's socially geared *Drop Jewels*. The late figurehead's prophetic message is tattooed across the Offenders' debut LP like the ink that covered his body. *Drop Jewels* is "A Call 2 Men," most sincerely those guilty of committing domestic violence. Over a slew of beat variations, some bringing to mind latter-day Talib Kweli/Hi-Tek collaborations ("Public Offenders") but most soulful out on slow piano rolls and mellow bass walks ("When Is Daddy Coming Home"), the Offenders prove themselves middle-of-the-road lyricists with a knack for the hook. That's aided in part by heartfelt contributions from wailers RB, TDG, and Tje Austin on five tracks and because the Public Offenders understand the ingredients of song. Such perspective makes for a well-realized effort that should be praised for its focus and admired for its intentions.

★★★

— Chase Hoffberger



PARADOX

Called to Mind

(End of Earth)

This also happened to the Beastie Boys on *Hello Nasty*. They found a rhyme scheme that sounded fresh over 32 bars and fashioned a whole album around it. On *Called to Mind*, Paradox's inability to switch the game up is the Austin rapper's Achilles' heel. Fortunately, he's set himself with a solid support system. Over smooth, funk-up beats, provided album-wide almost exclusively by Portland, Ore.'s Elliot B., Paradox flows hardest on "Broken" home upbringings and gets in tune with Atmosphere's school of thought: "This is for everyone whose life is either partially or fully comprised of contradictions" ("Put 'Em Together"). Paradox's rhythmic shortcoming is additionally crutched by a slew of guest MCs offering fresh looks to seven of the 15 tracks. Notably, it's speedster Jeremiah Bonds' fran-



13 CRACK TRACKS: AUSTIN BANDS PERFORM SONGS FROM THE CRACKPIPES SONGBOOK

(Chicken Ranch)

It took a lymphoma diagnosis of Crack Pipes guitarist Billy Steve Korpi to pay tribute to Austin's sanctified punk R&B originals, but *13 Crack Tracks* proves one silver lining. The crooked songbook of the garage-soul brothers remains vast and ripe for the picking, as the dozen acts that played a September 2007 hoot/benefit at Beerland can attest. Here, in studio form, these 13 cuts aren't covers as much as reinterpretations, wisely pairing bands that are sonically similar to the Pipes with more outré fare. Victims of Leisure's opening "Hot Dang," Big Foot Chester's "Snakes in My Veins," and the spot-on bra-strap snap of Faceless Werewolves' "Make Out Party" channel the blues rock pedigree, while Golden Arm Trio's rendition of "Making Trax" and Tia Carrera's "Q&A" fill in the instrumental gaps, evolving the songs off the barroom floor. Horse + Donkey molds "United Snakes" into a reverbed gem of its own — as does now-defunct quartet the Hunnies, lending slapdash charm and horns to "I Was So Worried About You" — and Attack Formation rightly owns "Rewind My Mind." The Crack Pipes songbook is simple and raw enough to lend itself to imitation, but this is the sincerest form of flattery.

(CD release: Saturday, Jan. 31, Beerland.)

★★★

— Audra Schroeder



tic eight bars that balance "Life of an Artist" and the grim 'n' gruff Metermaids' previously unfounded "glimpse of the struggle" augmenting "Snapshots."

★★★

— Chase Hoffberger

T JARROD QUARTET

Jazz Offerings to the Schnauzer King

(Music Room)

Longtime Austin resident and pianist T Jarrod Bonta usually hobnobs in country music circles. In Texas, that necessarily includes Western swing, and if this debut effort had hot fiddles and steel guitar, it would be a Western swing album. Instead, it's a delightfully swinging jazz affair that's an impressive showcase for Bonta's stylistic versatility and impressive chops. One moment he's strutting a sprite, modified stride style on "Meandering," reminiscent of fellow Austinite Teddy Wilson, and the next he's in more modern mode, waxing angular à la Thelonious on "Monkin' Around." The round, toned, fluid guitar runs of compadre Jim Truitt provide a potent, complementary punch. Except for a pair of standards, "Some of These Days" and "Please Don't Talk About Me," where the leader cops Alvin Crow's vocal nasality, *Schnauzer King* is filled with original instrumentals. Still don't mean a thing, if it ain't got that swing, and this does.

★★★

— Jay Trachtenberg



UNDONE: A MUSICFEST TRIBUTE TO ROBERT EARL KEEN

(Right Ave.)

Robert Earl Keen as the "father" of the Texas/Red Dirt Music scene makes plenty of sense, so *Undone*, a double-disc tribute



by some of that scene's leading lights, was inevitable. No matter how big a Keen fan you are, it's where you stand on artists such as Wade Bowen, Jason Boland, Randy Rogers, Cody Canada, and the other 18 that appear here that will go a long way on deciding your appreciation for the proceedings, recorded live in Colorado, January 2008. There are outstanding tracks, but the mostly acoustic performances manage to consistently miss the guts of what Keen's writing about, while also losing most of his melodies. Honorary Texan Chris Knight's title track cover digs deep, and Brandon Rhyder's "Carolina" is starkly affecting. The second disc is rescued somewhat by five songs from Keen and his band, including the drowsy new "Goodbye Cleveland."

★★

— Jim Caligiuri

RANDY WEEKS

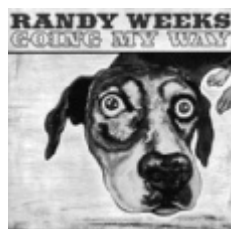
Going My Way

(Certifiable)

The *Los Angeles Times* just picked Randy Weeks as one of the artists to watch in 2009, and *Going My Way* should guarantee all eyes and ears tuned in his direction now that he's settled in Austin. A former member of the Lonesome Strangers, Weeks first gained attention when Lucinda Williams recorded his song "Can't Let Go" on her breakthrough, *Car Wheels on a Gravel Road*. More than a decade later, he's still producing snappy compositions that crackle and pop with life ("Summer of Love," "I Think You Think"). The Will Sexton-produced *My Way* travels the Americana road with well-worn style and soft leather panache ("Black Coffee and Lifesavers," "That's What I'd Do"), Weeks' distinctive voice sometimes reminiscent of a young Willie Nelson. Since he's made an auspicious local debut, here's a reckless wager that Randy Weeks and Texas will be a match made in Lone Star heaven.

★★★

— Margaret Moser



T BIRD & THE BREAKS

Learn About It

Even with the ongoing soul revival, no one's mined the blue-eyed variety represented by shouters Eric Burdon, Mitch Ryder, and Delbert McClinton. With 11 members, Austin's T Bird & the Breaks work that vein to the utmost, from the cry and croon of vocalist Tim Crane (T Bird, get it?) and sultry female vocalists to blaring saxophones and an on-the-one rhythm section. Also surprising is that *Learn About It*, their debut, is all originals, shot through with funk grooves and gritty atmosphere that would make Wilson Pickett proud. The strutting "Stand Up," shake and stutter of "Juice," and the bluesy, straight out of Muscle Shoals "Blackberry Brandy" are diverse enough to make *Learn About It* a constantly surprising listen. At only nine tracks, it's over too soon, but James Hunter and Dap-Kings aficionados take note: Here's an Austin band you're going to love. (CD release: Saturday, Jan. 31, Continental Club.)

★★★★

— Jim Caligiuri



LEAD STORY

Genetic modification sounds like frighteningly complicated lab work, but amateurs are routinely doing it in garages and dining rooms across the country, according to a December Associated Press report. Hobbyists (some terming themselves “biohackers”) are busy creating new life-forms and someday, observers say, may turn up a cure for cancer or an accidental environmental catastrophe. The community lab DIYbio in Cambridge, Mass., has patrons who typically work on vaccines and biofuels but might also whimsically create tattoos that glow. One amateur bought jellyfish DNA containing a green fluorescent protein (for about \$100) and built a DNA analyzer (less than \$25) so she could alter yogurt bacteria to glow green when it detects melamine (the substance recently discovered in deadly Chinese baby formula and pet food).

THE JOYS OF AIR TRAVEL

1) In December, a Flybe airline flight from Cardiff, Wales, was preparing to land as scheduled at Charles de Gaulle International Airport in Paris when the pilot announced that they had to return to Cardiff because, he said, “Unfortunately, I’m not qualified to land the plane in Paris.” Because of the heavy fog, the plane would have to be instrument-landed, and the pilot had not yet completed certification. 2) In September, after a Chinese Shandong Airlines flight landed safely in Zhengzhou, the engine died, and the airline was forced to enlist some of the 69 passengers to help employees push the plane to the gate.

COMPELLING EXPLANATIONS

Not My Fault: 1) Bruce George, 20, admitted to police that he had molested a 6-year-old girl in Anchorage, Alaska, in October but said he needed to do it to acquire the courage to kill himself. He said he needed motivation for suicide by doing something that totally disgusted him. 2) In October, a man unnamed in news reports filed a lawsuit in Selkirk, Manitoba, against the woman who supposedly caused him mental distress by suing for child support. The man said he had been sound asleep during that 2006 encounter but awoke to discover the woman having sex with him. He ordered her to “cease and desist,” he said, and she complied (but nonetheless, a pregnancy resulted).

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

Questionable modi operandi: 1) Jessica Cohen, 20, was rearrested in Cincinnati in December. She had gone to the local public defender’s office seeking a lawyer to represent her on a theft charge and while there, according to police, stole an employee’s cell phone. However, she had already filled out paperwork with her name and address. 2) Robert Dendy, 59, was detained by police in Tonawanda, N.Y., in November after he dropped by police headquarters to give them a holiday wreath as a token of his gratitude for their service. One of the officers happened to notice that the wreath was the same one that had just been stolen from a market next door to the station and after investigating found more suspicious missing goods at Dendy’s home.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



As the British government was poised in November to reclassify lap-dancing clubs from “entertainment” to “sexual encounter establishments” (thus imposing tougher licensing standards), the industry’s trade association insisted to a Parliamentary committee that the clubs are not sexual. “[T]he entertainment may be in the form of nude ... performers, but it’s not sexually stimulating,” said the chairman of the Lap Dancing Association. That would be “contrary to our business plan.”

A ‘NEWS OF THE WEIRD’ CLASSIC (JULY 2005)

Willie Windsor, 54, of Phoenix has for several years lived as a full-time baby, wearing frilly dresses, diapers, and bonnets; sucking on a pacifier; eating Gerber cuisine; and habitually clutching a rag doll, in a home filled with oversized baby furniture. According to a long Phoenix *New Times* profile in June, the diaper is not just a prop. Windsor said he worked hard to learn to become incontinent, even chaining the commode shut to avoid temptation, and the reporter admitted feeling “disconcert[ed]” that Windsor might be relieving himself at the very moment he was describing his toilet untraining. Apparently, Windsor’s brother, ex-wife, girlfriend, and a neighbor tolerate his lifestyle (though no girlfriend has yet been willing to change his diapers). Windsor is a semiretired singer/actor and said he’s been celibate for nine years.

IRONIES

Drunken Driving News: 1) Kathleen Cherry, 53, was arrested for driving under the influence in Carson City, Nev., in December. She is a phlebotomist working on contract with the sheriff’s office and was driving to the jailhouse

to administer a blood test to a DUI suspect. 2) Stephen Foster, 28, was jailed briefly in June in Edmonton, Alberta, when he showed up in court drunk for his DUI trial. The driving charge was postponed until December, and at that time a court found him not guilty.

Karma: A few animals were rescued from an early morning fire at a Humane Society shelter in Oshawa, Ontario, in December, but cats suffered heavy casualties, with nearly 100 perishing. The fire marshal’s office said the blaze was probably started by mice chewing through electrical wires.

In December, Lorraine Henderson, the port director for the federal Customs and Border Protection agency’s southern New England area, was charged with hiring illegal immigrants to clean her home and instructing them how to avoid detection by her agency. According to court documents, she told one worker, “You have to be careful, ‘cause they [meaning her agency] will deport you.”

Read News of the Weird daily at www.weirduniverse.net.

Send items to weirdnews@earthlink.net.

Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 128737, Tampa, FL 33679 or weirdnewstips@yahoo.com.

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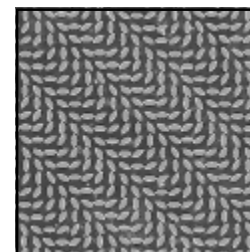
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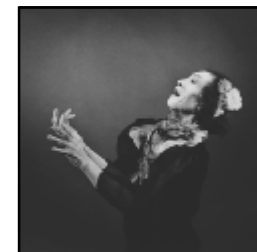
CDs / Records / DVDs



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Impressive and marks a considerable step forward for this ever-adventurous act.



Antony & the Johnsons

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Mon-Sat 11-9 Sun 12-8
www.endofanear.com

BILL SPELMAN'S CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

Help kick-start the hand-shaking and baby-kissing for this City Council wannabe. Food, drinks, and music from the Bouldin Creek Bobkats will be provided. 5:30pm. Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto, 466-6939. Free. www.billspelman.org.

DAD & THE LADIES Mary and DJ Bobbie throw one of the most popular ladies' nights around, seven years running. Come early, and catch Dad in a good mood for cheap drinks. *Thursdays: Dad's Happy Hour, 3-8pm; Ladies' Night, 8pm-close.* Rainbow Cattle Co., 305 W. Fifth, 472-5288. www.rainbowcattleco.com.

★ GROUNDED IN MUSIC FUNDRAISER Patty Griffin headlines this VIP fundraiser for Grounded in Music, which provides music education to underprivileged youth. 6:30-9:30pm. Gibson Guitar Showroom, 3601 S. Congress Ste. G-400, Penn Field, 542-2148. \$100. www.groundedinmusic.org.

IB EXPERIENCE Learn about the International Baccalaureate offered by Anderson High. 7pm. Anderson High School, 8403 Mesa, 414-7951. Free. www.austinsisd.org/staff/123.

KA-ASHO AFRIKAN WOMEN'S TEXTILE GATHERINGS Women of African descent are invited to hone their skills, learn new ones, and maintain ancestral traditions at this textile lounge. E-mail or call to RSVP *Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm. 1300 Yorkshire, 552-6277.* Free. sankofaasafo@gmail.com.

PRACTIQUEMOS ESPAÑOL Not Spanish language lessons but an opportunity to converse and fine-tune your conversational skills in a relaxed environment. *Thursdays, 4pm; Saturdays, 11am.* Faulk Central Branch Library, 800 Guadalupe, 974-7400. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

SOLAR AUSTIN HAPPY HOUR Pam Groce of the Texas State Energy Conservation Office leads the discussion of all things sun-powered. 6:30pm. *Opal Divine's Penn Field, 3601 S. Congress, 707-0237.*

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Boyz n the Hood @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm
Sick Around the World @ St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
AI Di Meola *One World Theatre*
School Police, Bob & Barbara, Human Milk
Austin Moose Lodge No. 1735
Los Bad Apples *The Parish*

AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR CONCERT

This choir, chosen annually from thousands of disadvantaged children in Africa, incorporates dance and storytelling into its cross-cultural songs. 7pm. St. Gabriel's Catholic School, 2500 Wimberly Ln. Free. www.sgs-austin.org.

CHRIS RILEY CAMPAIGN KICKOFF All roads to City Council membership have to start somewhere. Threadgill's is a good start. 6-8pm. *Threadgill's World HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304.*



| L - R: TEXAS HOME & GARDEN SHOW (SEE FRIDAY) | AUSTIN CROWS (SPORTS, P.63) | WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS IMPROV (ARTS, P.64) | 'CHE: PART ONE' (FILM, P.70) | JOHN LEGEND (MUSIC, P.80)

THURSDAY, JAN 22 TO THURSDAY, JAN 29

calendar

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

AFRICAN DANCE PARTY Rattletree Marimba and Aciable will bring the high energy music while you bring your groovin' body and your conscience. The SIMS Foundation will be on hand to spread the good word about how it helps local musicians with their health-coverage problems. 10pm-2am. *Copa Bar & Grill, 217 Congress, 479-5002.* \$8.

ALEXANDRA SAIH goes all SEO with her *The Secret to Getting Listed at the Top of Search Engines*. 2pm. *Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

ANTI-FUR PROTEST Action for Animals organizes this demonstration against the mistreatment of animals for fashion. 11am-12:30pm. *Julian Gold, 1214 W. Sixth, 879-7437.* tverret@earthlink.net, www.actionforanimalsaustin.org.

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET features fresh organic produce, meats, and cheeses straight from surrounding Texas farms, plus live music every week. *Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe, 974-6700.* Free. www.austinfarmersmarket.org.

AUSTIN JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL See "Secular Cinema in the Holy Land," Screens, p.48, or Special Screenings, p.78, for more on this celebration of chosen movies from the chosen people. *Jan. 24-31.* www.austinjff.org.

BEER & CHEESE CLASS If wine is just a bit too formal, you should know how to pair your favorite brew with the right cheese. Dare you to ask what goes with Natty Light. Call or sign up online to register. 11am. *North by Northwest Restaurant & Brewery, 10010 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 467-6969.* \$35. www.nxnwbrew.com.

★ CHANNELING: AN INVOCATION OF SPECTRAL BODIES & QUEER SPIRITS "Experimental moving image work that calls up the ghosts of the past and the specters of the future." *Queerly. 8:30pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688.* \$5. www.channelingqueerspirits.wordpress.com.

★ CHILI COLD BLOOD CHILI COOK-OFF Sample one of the many entrants' spicy concoctions. Once you're fired up, music from Honeybread, Chili Cold Blood, and more turn the heat up even higher. 11am-4pm. *Jo's Hot Coffee, 242 W. Second, 469-9003.* Free. www.joscoffee.com.

GENEALOGY AFTER HOURS Call to register for this opportunity to trace your family tree. It's after all the pesky book-readers will have left, so you'll have unfettered access to miniclasses, experts, books, microfilm, and online resources. 6-10pm. *Round Rock Public Library, 216 E. Main St., Round Rock, 512/218-7000.* Free. www.roundrocktexas.gov/library.

PEOPLE UNITED has a live conversation with activists Thorne Dreyer, Simon Evans, Gabby Hicks, and Mariann Wizard on the subject of informants and provocateurs. 1pm. *KOOP Radio 91.7FM.* www.koop.org.

SELF/WORLD DISORDERS WORKSHOP Teachers, parents, and others in careers related to guiding youth are invited to learn about some of the disorders that inhibit communication and cooperation in young people. Call, or register online. 7pm. *Austin Waldorf School, 8702 South View, 288-5942.* \$25. www.austinwaldorf.org.

SOLAR DESIGN INTENSIVE Bring your basic knowledge of solar design, and take your sun-collecting prowess to the next level. Register online to participate. *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 23-24. Hubbert's Peak Creative Works, 4704-B E. Cesar Chavez, \$175.* www.hubbertspeak.org.

★ TEXAS HOME & GARDEN SHOW Get ideas for the interiors and exteriors of your homestead. Everything from carpets to plants to instructional classes on greening your home. Two minixpos also take residence at the show to help you maximize your leisure time, outdoor activities, health, and beauty. *Fri.-Sun., Jan. 23-25. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 800/654-1480.* \$7.50 (children, free). www.texashomeandgarden.com.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Beowulf: The IMAX 3D Experience @ IMAX Theatre, 9:15pm
The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience @ IMAX Theatre, 6:30pm
The Unforeseen @ Ragsdale Center, Jones Auditorium (at St. Edward's University), 7pm
West Side Story @ Paramount, 7:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Coma in Algiers *Red 7*
Prey for Sleep *Red Eyed Fly*
Texas Guitar Women *Antone's*
John Legend *Bass Concert Hall*
Brett Dennen, Erin McCarley *La Zona Rosa*

★ **RECOMMENDED**
🐱 **YOUNG ONES**
👑 **GAY PLACES**

CONQUERING FEAR Get the spiritual guidance you need to get over your fears in life. 2pm. *Austin Eckankar Center, 223 W. Anderson Ste. 206-B, 453-0331.* Free. www.eckankar-texas.org.

GALA FOR DELL CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER Proceeds from this black-tie event, featuring dinner, dancing, casino games, and auctions, benefit Dell Children's Medical Center. Music by the Sauce makes the charitable admission price a little more palatable. 6pm-12mid. *Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 324-0170.* \$500. www.childrensaustin.org.

🐱 GAMING AT THE LIBRARY Play your favorite Wii, PlayStation2, and GameCube games at the palace of the written word. It might seem counterproductive, but at least the young ones are at the library for a change. 1pm. *Manchaca Library, 5500 Manchaca Rd., 974-7400.* Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

👑 HONORING ANA Celebrating Ana Sisnett: author, artist, activist, friend. Sleep sweetly, sweet friend. 1pm. *Trinity United Methodist Church.*

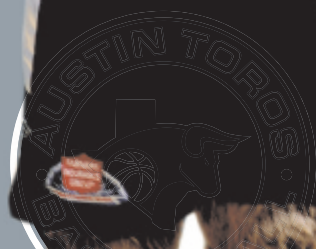
🐱 LATINITAS MEDIA CAMP Girls in grades four through eight are invited to learn about "trick photography." Cameras will be provided. 10:30am. *Carver Library, 1161 Angelina, 322-9947.* Free. www.latinitasmagazine.org.

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION Food, dance, music, and martial arts demos all ring in the year of the earth ox. Here's to hoping for 12 months of strength and quiet perseverance. 10am-3pm. *Asian American Cultural Center, 11713 Jollyville, 336-5069.* Free. www.asianamericanccc.com.

🐱 MO WILLEMS teaches tolerance in his newest charmer, *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed*. To have any Mo Willems books signed, you must have bought at least one copy of *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed* from BookPeople and be able to show your receipt at the event. Be sure to wear your silliest outfit to show those mole rats how to dress! 6pm. *BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

NORTH LAMAR COMBINED NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN WORKSHOP See what the city has planned for the North Lamar area of Austin. Don't like it? Now's your chance to offer constructive criticism. "This sucks," doesn't count. 10am-1pm. *St. Mark United Methodist Church, 601 W. Braker, 974-7657.* Free. www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/north_lamar.htm.

Future Stars of the



January 21, 7:30 pm
Toros vs. Anaheim Arsenal
 Capital City Employees bring your id and receive buy one, get one ticket FREE!

January 23, 7:30 pm
Toros vs. RGV Vipers
 Catholic School Night presented by Parker School Uniforms

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BY GERALD E. MCLEOD *daytrips*



GERALD E. MCLEOD

The **Texas Panhandle** covers somewhere around 25,000 square miles of Northwest Texas, depending on where you draw the southern border of this geographic and cultural region. Driving straight across Texas from New Mexico to Oklahoma takes a little more than three hours. If the Panhandle were a state, it would be ranked 41st in size just below South Carolina and ahead of West Virginia.

The crown jewel of the Texas Panhandle's natural treasures is Palo Duro Canyon, the Grand Canyon of Texas. The colorful rock walls are a geological snapshot of time. You can stay in rock cabins on the rim or camp on the canyon floor. The numerous trails in the state park are open to hikers and bikers, or you can just drive the scenic road. June through August, the musical drama *Texas* is performed in the park's outdoor amphitheatre.

While you're in the neighborhood of Amarillo, don't miss Cadillac Ranch off I-40 west of town. Have your picture taken among the vintage-car tail fins sprouting from the flat cotton field.

Heading east from Amarillo, you're following a portion of old Route 66. About 20 miles outside of Groom, you'll see the 190-foot-tall cross. At night, the illuminated structure seems to float above the prairie.

About 75 miles east of Amarillo, the Devil's Rope Museum in McLean is an eclectic and interesting mix of Western memorabilia and Route 66 artifacts.

The most beautiful drive in the Panhandle is Texas Highway 207 south of I-40 to Silverton. The two-lane road rises and falls, twists and turns through the canyons separating the flat plains from the rolling hills. Pack a picnic lunch to enjoy at the roadside park with a grand view near Wayside.

From Silverton, take a small detour to Caprock Canyons State Park & Trailway. This out-of-the-way state park is as colorful as Palo Duro Canyon, even if it is not as big. For the really adventurous, take a bike ride or a hike on the 64 miles of old railroad trail between South Plains and Estelline.

Driving southwest from Quitaque, angle through the small farming communities to Lubbock. The Buddy Holly Center remembers the hometown boy with an excellent exhibit about his short rock & roll life along with interesting art shows. On the east side of town, the American Wind Power Center and Museum documents the unique history of windmills in taming the vast Panhandle plains. The 30 windmills on the grounds look like giant flowers.

To complete the loop of the central Texas Panhandle, head north on I-27 from Lubbock toward Amarillo. In Canyon, 12 miles west of Palo Duro Canyon, take time to visit the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. Now that you've seen the beauty and vastness of the Panhandle, learn about the people who made the Panhandle a state of mind.

916th in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of "Day Trips" 101-200, is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.

outoftown

GOURMET WEEKENDS begin with appetizers on Friday evening then head into a multicourse Saturday supper topped off with bountiful breakfasts at this historic ranch. *Jan. 23 and one weekend a month. Murski Homestead Bed and Breakfast, Brenham, 877/690-0676. www.murskihomesteadbb.com.*

ARTS ENCOUNTERS AT BENINI'S Enjoy the music of the John Chambers Band and lively discussions about art and artists with sculptor Mark Staz, Dr. Ann Daly, architect Marley Porter, and photographer Ernest Moore. *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 24-25, 1:30pm. Benini Galleries and Sculpture Ranch, 377 Shiloh Rd., Johnson City, 830/868-5244. Free. www.artsenountersatbeninis.com.*

PRUNING DAY & OYSTER FRY Join Fritz Westover, Gulf Coast regional viticulture extension associate for Texas Cooperative Extension, as he demonstrates how to properly prune vines and answers questions about growing grapes in Texas. Then stay for lunch and music. You can take your cuttings

home and start your own vineyard. *Sat., Jan. 24, 9am-3:30pm. Haak Winery, Santa Fe, Texas, 409/925-1401. www.haakwine.com.*

WOODY GUTHRIE IN PAMPA, 1929-1936 The exhibition documents Guthrie's formative years in the Texas Panhandle where he first learned to play guitar and write songs. *Jan. 24-July 31. Panhandle Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, 806/651-2244. www.panhandleplains.org.*

CHILDREN'S THEATRE MONTH comes to a close with the production of three shows featuring more than 70 performers throughout the day. *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 24-25. Bastrop Opera House, 711 Spring St., Bastrop, 512/321-6283. www.bastropoperahouse.com.*

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP DOMINO TOURNAMENT Contestants from around the country compete for bragging rights on who is the best "bones" player. Come for the exciting action; stay for the sausage plate lunches. *Sun., Jan. 25, 9am. KC Hall, Hallettsville, 361/798-2662. www.hallettsville.com.*

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS INFORMATION EVENT Those with food-related addictions are free to learn about this support group and recovery program. *1-3pm. Cedar Park Library, 550 Discovery Blvd., Cedar Park, 512/260-0301. Free. velva_p@sbcbglobal.net, www.main.org/hotig.*

RICHARD GARRIOTT'S EXTREME VOYAGE The famed video-game developer shares his experiences aboard the International Space Station. *2:30 & 8pm. Zach Theatre's Whisenhunt Stage, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$65 (\$35, children).*

STORYTIME WITH PRINT-BRAILLE BOOKS Commemorate the 200th anniversary of Louis Braille's birth with a picture book with Braille text read by a member of the National Federation of the Blind. *2pm. Faulk Central Branch Library, 800 Guadalupe, 974-7400. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

TREE TALK Before this daylong event is through, you'll be planting healthy and site-appropriate trees that will flourish or perhaps invite the neighboring birds to your yard. Go to www.wildflower.org/ttw for a complete schedule of workshops. *9am-5pm. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. Free.*

VIDEO & DISCUSSION features a screening of *WALL-E*. *7pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free. www.humanpotentialcenter.org.*

WE SESSION AKA AUSTIN'S VERY OWN WOODSTOCK A few indie rock bands, a handful of DJs, and a who's who of local hip-hop acts get together to perform, and a portion of the proceeds goes to the East Austin Boys & Girls Club. See Club Listings, p.84, for a complete lineup. *8pm-2am. New Mint Room Rooftop, 408 Congress. \$2. www.myspace.com/thebreakfastclubcrew.*

PRACTIQUEMOS ESPAÑOL (See Thursday, 1/22.)

SOLAR DESIGN INTENSIVE (See Friday.)

TEXAS HOME & GARDEN SHOW (See Friday.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Austin Galleries, Flatbed Press

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Beowulf: The IMAX 3D Experience @ IMAX Theatre, 9:15pm
Channeling: An Invocation of Spectral Bodies & Queer Spirits @ The Hideout Theatre, 8:30pm
Dionysus in '69 @ Austin Film Studios Screening Room, 7, 9pm
The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience @ IMAX Theatre, 6:30pm
The Rocky Horror Picture Show @ Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid
West Side Story @ Paramount, 4, 7:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
KRS-One Mohawk
My Empty Phantom Lamberts

SUNDAY 25

ECO SPEAKING SERIES E-mail to RSVP for this talk with Brewster McCracken about the Pecan Street Project and other pressing matters dealing with design and its relationship to the world around us. *2-4pm. Pollen Architecture & Design, 1200 E. 12th. \$5 donation. info@ecoseriesaustin.com, www.ecoseriesaustin.com.*

ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN This week, the society imports an ethicist from St. Louis, Mo., Kate Lovelady, to lead the discussion. *10am. Laguna Gloria, 3809 W. 35th, 835-9008. Free. www.esoa.org.*

FLYING THEATER MACHINE This interactive performance featuring games and stories provides kids ages 4 to 10 with an early introduction to improv comedy. *Sundays, 2pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 971-3311. \$5 (free for babies). www.flyingtheatermachine.com.*

FREE LOVE One night only, an event to support Nice Girl (as in Two NGs) Laurie Freelove. A cavalcade of Austin-hottentots, including KUT's Larry Monroe, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Carolyn Wonderland, Sara Hickman, Gretchen Phillips, Kathy McCarty, and more, shall preside to honor and raise dough for Freelove's medical expenses through the Austin Art and Music Partnership. *6:30pm. Antone's, 213 W. Fifth, 873-8925 or 320-8424. \$15 donation.*

LEGISLATIVE POLICY FORUM Discuss the hot issues of the 81st legislative session in a nonpartisan environment. Guest experts and representatives get the ball rolling every Sunday (except Super Bowl Sunday, of course). *Sundays, 4pm. First United Methodist Church, 1201 Lavaca, 478-5684.*

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION Learn the practices of mindful sitting, walking, tea drinking, and discussion. It's more than just lazy yoga. *Sundays, 6-8pm. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar, 909/503-5296. Free. www.plumblossomsangha.org.*

NEILL-COCHRAN HOUSE SPEAKER SERIES Reserve your tickets in advance for this series of talks centering on life in the 19th century. This week author Mike Cox discusses the Great Treasury Raid of 1865. *2pm. Neill-Cochran House Museum, 2310 San Gabriel, 524-2345. \$10 (free to members). www.nchmuseum.org.*

WEEKLY PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM Former Austin Mayor Frank Cooksey talks about Austin's past and future and whether or not the trends are positive. *Sundays, 11:30am. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinnu.org.*

TEXAS HOME & GARDEN SHOW (See Friday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience @ IMAX Theatre, 6:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Free Laurie Freelove Antone's
Fancy Feast, Gayle Gold, No Mas Bodas Beauty Bar

MONDAY 26

AUSTIN BUTTERFLY FORUM MEETING Members of this group gather to share their experiences and pictures of backyard insects and butterflies. Local biology professor Allan Hook will elucidate wasp evolution, biodiversity, and behavior. *7pm. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 477-8672. Free. www.austinbutterflies.org.*

BT LIVE Weekly live music at everybody's fave up-north gay bar. It's ... 'bout time. *'Bout Time, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339. www.fusenote.com.*

COMMUNITY PANEL ON POVERTY Find out what it means to live in poverty in Central Texas from the nonprofits that know best. *7pm. Caritas of Austin, 611 Neches, 432-1946. Free. mackenzie@livehereigivehere.org, www.livehereigivehere.org.*

DOGGIE HAPPY HOUR Leashed dogs and their owners are invited to partake in unlimited water and treats for the canines and chips and salsa for the humans. Prizes will be raffled while the dogs enjoy the company. *5-7pm. Cuatros, 1004 24th, 243-6361. www.cuatrosaustin.com.*

HAPPY HOUR YOGA Get your hatha flowing. *Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase. www.rutamaya.net.*

IMPERIA'S CHINESE NEW YEAR Ring in the new year with traditional lion dancers, an Asian drum performance, light appetizers, and DJ'd tunes. *7pm. Imperia, 310 Colorado, 472-6770. imperiaevents@gdiaustin.com.*

LEGAL CLINIC Free legal advice from Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. Most *Mondays & Wednesdays, 6pm. Mondays, Martin Middle School, 1601 Haskell; Wednesdays, Webb Middle School, 601 E. St. John's, 374-2700. Free. www.trla.org.*

LEGISLATIVE DAY FOR MOTORCYCLE COMMUNITY Bikers from across the state converge on the Capitol to ensure that their voices (or engines) are heard this legislative session. Wear your helmet. *9am-3pm. Texas Capitol, 1100 Congress, 560-1458. Free. dbzydentzen@gmail.com, www.coctexas.org.*

NEW MOON OF AQUARIUS Learn about the moon cycles and how they affect your life. Get a feel for this new moon of Aquarius, and see how you can use it to your benefit. *8pm. Ventana del Soul, 1834 E. Oltorf, 888/898-8230. \$15. www.kabbalah.com.*

QI GONG Let Dr. Tom Gore give your life force a boost through this ancient Chinese art of small, slow movements. *Mondays, 9:30am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. \$5 suggested donation. www.rutamaya.net.*



SLEEP DISORDER WORKSHOP Learn to solve your sleeping disorders the natural way. 6:30pm. *Ruta Maya*, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 892-3366. Free. www.naturalhealthaustin.com.

VALKYRIES (SANS TOM CRUISE) Austin's reps in the Texas Rugby Union are calling for newbs. See their website for details. *Mon. and Wed. practices begin today, 7-9pm. Burnet Middle School*, 3000 S. I-35, 841-8289. alex.davenport1@gmail.com, www.austinvalkyries.com.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) *Double Indemnity* @ Hampton Library, 6pm *I Think We're Alone Now* @ Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm *The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience* @ IMAX Theatre, 7:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) **XXYX, the Young Emos**

TUESDAY 27

AUSTIN CZECH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION POTLUCK Bring a dish to share, and help preserve Czech culture. 7pm. *Gethsemane Lutheran Church*, 200 W. Anderson. Free. www.austinczechs.com.

BIRDING TUESDAYS means two hours of trail walking and bird watching with Travis Audubon Society field leaders showing you the way. Go online for specific directions to the meeting point, bring your binoculars, and don't forget your love of gawking at birds. 9am. *Mary Moore Searight Park*, Decker Prairie Drive, 300-BIRD. Free. www.travisaudubon.org.

FINAL CUT PRO USER GROUP Sandra Adair, editor for many of Richard Linklater's films including *Waking Life* and *Dazed and Confused*, brings her expertise to this meeting. Come ready with questions. 7pm. *Ventana del Soul*, 1834 E. Oltorf, 563-0844. Free. www.cutsaustin.com.

GIG FOR GOD Creative Spirit's God Investigating Group meets on the deck to discuss anything. We said, "Anything." Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm. *Freddie's Place*, 1703 S. First, 445-9197.

HANDWRITING WORKSHOP Teachers, tutors, and parents are invited to learn techniques for instructing their charges in the art of legible cursive. For those times when texting just won't cut it. 7pm. *Scottish Rite Learning Center*, 12871 Research, 471-1231. \$35. www.scottishritelearningcenter.org.

IONS AUSTIN Get the astrological prediction for the next four years, because Obama can't have all the answers. 6:30pm. *Austin History Center*, 810 Guadalupe, 535-0729. Free. www.ionsaustin.org.

IT'S RAIN-ING GLITTER! Remember when you were in that glam frat in college and Tuesday night was *Rock Band* and *Guitar Hero* night? And when you weren't tossing off licks (...) you were snogging up boys? No? Well come down to Rain and make those memories now. *Rain on 4th*, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150. www.rainon4th.com.

STEAK NIGHT & CHOCOLATES FOR CHARITY Come early for a \$6 steak (or chicken) with all the fixin's, plus the adventure in mouthfeel known as Chocolates for Charity, run by the United Court to benefit local nonprofits. Then stay late for Jame Perry's original amateur strip-off. Tuesdays, 6pm & 12mid. *Charlie's Austin*, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481. www.charliesaustin.com.

BY ASH BELL AND KATE X MESSER

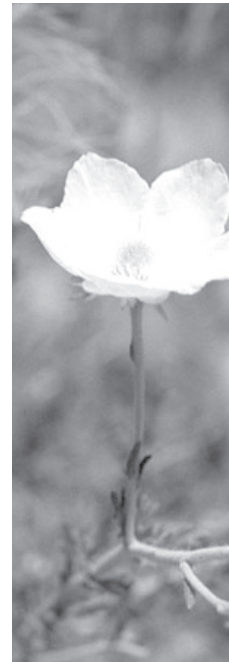
gayplace

TWO NICE MANGOES The work of two Austin lesbian artists will be honored in two separate events this weekend. Their lives and work are for the most part mutually exclusive, but their individual impacts on this town earn them hallowed seats in the hall of giants. Saturday afternoon, Austin will gather to commemorate the life of dear friend of "Gay Place" and former **Austin Free-Net** Executive Director **Ana Sisnett**, who passed away last week after a three-year battle with cancer. Her official executive director title was but one of many for the activist, artist, author, and all-around sassy mama. The vacancy she leaves is vast, and

the mangoes she leaves untouched, plentiful. Come celebrate the goodness this woman brought to all of our lives. (See "Remembering Ana Sisnett," Screens, p.47, for more.) On Sunday evening, former

Two Nice Girls founding member **Laurie Freelo** shall be honored and supported in her struggle with health issues. Family, friends, the Austin music community, and the whole town, it seems, will descend upon Antone's, and some musical careers may even be resurrected at this all-star benefit in conjunction with the Austin Art and Music Partnership. (See Music Listings, p.80, for details.) See Saturday and Sunday for more.

Send gay bits to gayplace@austinchronicle.com. Visit austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog.



TREE TALK (SEE SATURDAY)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

I Think We're Alone Now @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm
Sisters @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm
The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience @ IMAX Theatre, 7:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Beth Lee Scoot Inn & Bier Garten

WEDNESDAY 28

CO-WORKING WORKSHOP Get that work/life balance in equilibrium with the latest community craze: co-working. Get together, meet other entrepreneurs, complete a project, and maybe get a massage. If only work were this much fun. 1-5pm. *Soma Vida*, 1210 Rosewood, 628-1580. Free. www.somavidaaustin.com.

COLTON FORD AT CLUB POPULAR Half-off presale tickets for gay porn daddy-cum-gay rockstar Colton Ford are on sale now. And half-off who knows what else. *Oilcan Harry's*, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.

DEVIL BAT Psych. No, really: The Devil Bat, Abigail und Hansel, 7 Inch Stitch, and Night Viking (featuring Gary Barfitts). Psych. No, really: Barfitts. 10pm. *Creekside Lounge*, 606 E. Seventh, 480-5988. \$6.

HOW TO START A FOOD BUSINESS Learn the ins and outs of being a restaurateur. 6:30pm. *The Kitchen Space*, 1204 Cedar, 535-5137. \$25. www.thekitchenspace.com.

MIDWEEK AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET This growers-only market features fresh food, chef demos, kids activities, live music, and more every week, rain or shine. Wednesdays, 3-7pm. *The Triangle*, 46th Street, between Guadalupe and Lamar. Free. www.austinfarmersmarket.org.

Q'S COFFEE NIGHT Come meet the boys who love boys who love caffeine. Wednesdays, 7pm. *Little City*, 916 Congress, 420-8557. qboyz@qboyz.org, www.qboyz.org.

VIDEO & DISCUSSION This week's video is *Future by Design*. A wide-ranging discussion begins with the themes of the film and usually ends in the most unlikely place. 7pm. *Human Potential Center*, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free. www.humanpotentialcenter.org.

LEGAL CLINIC (See Monday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

I Think We're Alone Now @ Alamo Ritz, 10:20pm
The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience @ IMAX Theatre, 7:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Pink Nasty Stubb's
Corto Maltese, Basic, Wine & Revolution Emo's
Harptallica Headhunters

TICKETS \$10 Door \$5 Presale

CH & POPULAR present

COLTON FORD PERFORMING LIVE

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28

Oilcan Harry's 211 W. 4th St. 512.320.8823 oilcanharrys.com



RICHARD GARRIOTT'S EXTREME VOYAGE (SEE SATURDAY)



CHILI COLD BLOOD CHILI COOK-OFF (SEE SATURDAY)

THURSDAY 29

CENTRAL WEST AUSTIN LAND USE

PLANNING WORKSHOP If you live or work in or around the Seton area on West 38th or near West 34th between Lamar and Shoal Creek, then tonight's your chance to provide feedback about future development in your neighborhood. 6:30pm. LCRA Red Bud Facility, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., 974-2857. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/central_west_austin.htm.

HOMELESS COUNT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED The Austin/Travis County Homeless Count and Survey needs help tallying local homeless in shelters, on the streets, or in transitional housing. Training will be provided for the teams of volunteers before hitting the streets. 4-9pm. Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, 500 E. Seventh, 305-4138. kdarakshan@frontsteps.org. www.frontsteps.org.

REAL COMMUNITY BUILDING The Austin chapter of the American Institute for Architects presents this housing/community building forum to facilitate creative thinking about the future of local neighborhoods. Call or e-mail to RSVP. 6-7:30pm. Center for Architecture, 801 W. 12th, 452-4332. Free. lauren@aiaaustin.org. www.realcommunity.ning.com.

RICE ALLIANCE PRESENTATION Rice University professor Andrew Barron discusses how the academic and commercial worlds can work together for faster and more successful technology development. 6pm. InterContinental Stephen F. Austin, 701 Congress, 713/208-3767. \$25 (\$15, advance).

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Feb. 6 issue is Monday, Jan. 26.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail:

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS SUMMIT Learn the latest in making your business sustainable and what that can mean for your bottom line. You'll be going green in more ways than one. Network with other sustainable-minded professionals or join an interactive panel or just check out the product fair. You'll be carbon-neutral before anyone can say, "jumping on the green bandwagon." Thu.-Fri., Jan. 29-30. McCombs School of Business. \$75. www.utsummit.com.

TAXES, SIMPLIFIED Got questions about your W-2 or 1040a or 90210? A certified public accountant will supply the answers. Noon. Brick Oven Restaurant, 10710 Research #310, 421-2818. Free. www.aplusfcu.org.

TEXAS WATER SYMPOSIUM Gregory M. Ellis, attorney and executive director of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, discusses the History of the Rule of Capture and Its Role and Status in Shaping Water Policy and Planning in Texas. This one's gonna be a barn-burner. 7pm. Admiral Nimitz Museum, National Museum of the Pacific War, 340 E. Main, Fredericksburg, 325/446-2301. Free. www.schreiner.edu/water.

DAD & THE LADIES (See Thursday, 1/22.)

KA-ASHO AFRIKAN WOMEN'S TEXTILE GATHERINGS (See Thursday, 1/22.)

PRACTIQUEMOS ESPAÑOL (See Thursday, 1/22.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience @ IMAX Theatre, 7:30pm

Kate X Messer or Ash Bell (Gay Place): gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

Mark Fagan (Sports): gameplans@austinchronicle.com.

James Renowitch (everything else): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor, 454-5766 or brenner@austinchronicle.com.

now ...

TEXAS HILL COUNTRY FAERIES, ELVES, & SATYRS That's THCFES to you, delicate nymph of the forest glen. (All's we wanna know is: *Where are the fekkin' unicorns?!*) THCFES is a group for alternative/progressive gay men who understand the goodness of all things fae. Yae! groups.yahoo.com/group/thcfes, tribes.tribe.net/texasfaeries.

HELPING HANDS CENTER needs strong, dependable males to help load/unload groceries twice monthly. *Helping Hands Center*, 1151 San Bernard St., 472-2298.

HOST A CREEK CLEANUP Is the creek you love filled with beer cans and six-pack rings? All you have to do is gather some friends to clean it up, and Keep Austin Beautiful and Watershed Protection and Development Review will give you all the guidance and materials you need. 391-0617. Free. www.keeapaustinbeautiful.org/creekcleanup.

ATTICUS CIRCLE Come join the grassroots gay-straight alliance that stands up for dignity, justice, and the (true) American way! *Huzzah!* 450-5188. info@atticuscircle.org. www.atticuscircle.org. www.myspace.com/atticuscircle.

WHAT'S GAYER THAN A CABARET? Not much. Check out *Austin Cabaret Theatre's* sassy-ass blog. Tell Stuart Gay Place sentcha. www.austincabaret.blogspot.com.

COATS FOR CUBS is accepting real fur – be it a coat, trim, or other type of clothing – to be used as bedding for orphaned or injured wildlife. From now till Earth Day (April 22), you may drop off your furs at Buffalo Exchange (just tell them they're for Coats for Cubs). *Buffalo Exchange*, 2904 Guadalupe, 480-9925. www.humanesociety.org/coatsforcubs.

SCHOOLS FOR IKE VICTIMS The Austin Independent School District is looking for children's clothing and school supplies for students who were affected by Hurricane Ike. Drop them off at *Baker Administration Center*, 3908 Ave. B, Rm. 204, between 8am and 4pm on weekdays. The deadline for donations is Jan. 30.

LETTERS TO SALA AT TEXAS HILLEL On display: a rare collection of Holocaust-era letters, postcards, photographs, and official documents that Sala Kirschner managed to save at great personal risk after surviving five years of Nazi work camps. *Topfer Center for Jewish Life, Texas Hillel*, 2105 San Antonio St. www.texashillel.org.

LOCKS OF LOVE HAIRCUTS Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday through the month of January, Avant's three locations will offer free cuts for those donating their hair to disadvantaged children whose illness has caused severe hair loss. Check the Avant website for a list of donation guidelines. *Avant salons*, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 318 Colorado, and 9600 S. I-35. \$20. www.avantsalon.com/newsletter/locksoflove.

TOUCH DANCE/PARTNER DANCE GROUP Do you lead or do you follow, darlin'? This group of gay-friendly women loves to dance and has formed this social group to which all gay-friendly women, 21 and older, are invited. Sometimes, they will meet at dance events; sometimes, they will hit the floor at a local club to practice. What better way to improve (or acquire) those skills? And those skills. Free. austin_dancers@yahoo.com.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING Local Randalls and H-E-B markets along with St. Ignatius Catholic School (120 W. Oltorf) will be offering prepackaged food bags that can be donated to the Capital Area Food Bank now until the Super Bowl. The goal is to help collect 500,000 pounds of food. www.souperbowl.org/austin.

MDA CAMP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED The Muscular Dystrophy Association is looking for volunteer counselors to care for a young person between the ages of 6 and 17. You will become a companion to a child with a muscle disease for the duration of the weeklong camp sessions. Both counselors and kids benefit from the life-changing experience. 800/572-1717. www.mda.org/clinics/camp.

BIG IDEA BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION Do you have a big idea for a new business? Go online to submit your genius. The finalists present their business plans to people, April 17, at the BiG Idea Day, with the winner taking home \$10,000 in cash and prizes. Deadline for entries is Feb. 20. 928-8010. www.bigaustin.org/business_plan_competition.htm.

GIRLS' CHOIR AUDITIONS Call to schedule a weekend audition for this local treble choir. Tryouts are being scheduled on weekends through Feb. 8. 453-0884. www.austin.girlschoir.com.

COMMUNITY TAX PREPARATION Don't have the money for a professional tax service but still unsure about adding everything up correctly? If your income is less than \$25,000 for an individual or \$50,000 for a family of 2 to 4 people, then you're likely eligible. Call 211, or go to www.communitytaxcenters.org for a complete list of criteria, locations, and hours, as well as information about which forms to bring.

DTV CONVERTER BOX COUPONS NEEDED

Confused by the switch to digital television on Feb. 17? Imagine what it's like for homebound individuals on a very fixed income. Meals on Wheels and More is looking for unused DTV converter box coupons to share with their clients. Call to donate, and MOWAM reps will handle the installation process. 476-6325. www.mealsonwheelsandmore.org.

& later

AUSTIN ROUNDUP Register now for this local nonprofit's upcoming (next weekend!) sober conference for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender members of AA and Al-Anon. *Fri.-Sun., Jan. 30-Feb. 1. Omni Hotel Southpark*, 4140 Governor's Row, 488-2222. chairs@austinroundup.com, www.austinroundup.com.

AUSTIN BLACK EXPO Get ready for this day of African-American centered events with a free expo of family activities and vendors galore. The Soulful Taste of Austin Cook-Off (5:30pm, free) spices things up before the temperature really starts to rise at 6:30pm with the Step Show and Ol' School Jam (\$15) playing the hits until 12mid. *Sat., Jan. 31. Monarch Event Center*, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 459-1181. www.austinblackexpo.com.

CARNAVAL BRASILEIRO You know what to expect: drums, dancing, and scantily clad folk of every ilk. *Sat., Jan. 31, 9pm. Palmer Events Center*, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 452-6832. \$35. www.carnavalaustin.com.

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY Learn about the many functions and operating procedures of the Austin Police Department. The next session starts Feb. 10 and meets on *Tuesdays*, 6:45-9:30pm. For more information or an application, visit the APD website, www.cityofaustin.org/police, or read "My Semester on the Beat," News, Dec. 1, 2006, for *Chronicle* Associate News Editor Nora Ankrum's experience with the program. 854-4989. vincente.galloway@co.travis.tx.us.

MERRY MERRY MARTINI MIXER Save \$20 on presale tickets for this popular Equality Texas fundraiser featuring DJ Seth Cooper and some liberal doses of Ketel One. (Hint: It sells out every year!) *Sat., Jan. 31, 8-11pm. Mercury Hall*, 615 Cardinal, 236-1226. \$50 (\$30, advance).

NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY It's all about the testing and treatment, people. Come mobilize. *Sat., Feb. 7, 10am. Huston-Tillotson University*, 900 Chicon, 972-6115. carole.barasch@ci.austin.tx.us.

NO VALENTINE? THEN SPEW IS FOR YOU. Queercore courtesy of the Spew party, featuring the Extravaganza, Box Squad, and Deadly Companions. But not as deadly as that nasty ex. *Sat., Feb. 14, 9pm. Red 7*, 611 E. Seventh, 476-8100. \$3 (\$5, under 21). www.myspace.com/spewpartyaustin.

TRIBELLA RELEASE PARTY Tribella celebrates the release of its latest with opener Paige Lewis. *Sat., Jan. 31, 8:30pm. The Peacock*, 515 Pedernales, 276-8979. \$5. www.myspace.com/tribellatheband.

sports

BY MARK FAGAN

listings



JOHN ANDERSON

BY THOMAS HACKETT *playingthrough*

First things first: The women who go to custom car shows are still major babes. For some of them, sure, the days when they might have appeared on the cover of *Hot Rod* magazine in a bikini have passed.

But that hasn't stopped them from putting on skintight jeans and skimpy T-shirts or applying a generous smear of glittery eye shadow. These women take pride in what they've got, which I find reassuring. I'm heartened, too, that there are still men in this world who revel in their cars. Their bad-boy drag-racing days may be behind them, but they still spend every spare hour loving their babies, turning them into beautiful works of baroque art, bolt by sandblasted bolt.

As I took in the Austin Custom Car & Hot Rod Show last Saturday at the Palmer Events Center, my attention was evenly divided between the buxom cars and buxom gals. **Bob Olofson's** wasn't. At 68, Olofson remains the hot-rodder he was at 13, when he bought a banged-up '46 Ford coupe for a couple hundred bucks and made it the envy of his friends. "Back then, all anyone could afford was a piece of junk," he said. "First thing you did was you got it running. Then you started making improvements. You added horsepower. You painted it yourself. You made it look real smooth, lowering the car, chopping the top, removing the chrome, the door handles, giving it something other than that stock look. The idea was: You wanted a fast car, but you also wanted something that looked good, something that drew attention. It was nice that the girls noticed, but mainly you wanted your buddies to appre-

ciate your labor. These days, it's still a labor of love, but for a lot of people showing cars at events like this, it's someone else's labor they're showing off – labor they only paid for."

Olofson, a retired test pilot who lives in Georgetown and regularly wins best in show for his '48 Dodge Power Wagons, pointed to a DayGlo yellow '32 Ford Cabriolet Roadster on prominent display. "It's beautifully done," he admitted. "But you're looking at probably a quarter-million dollars right there, and it's too much. It's overkill."

Overkill? At a hot-rod show?

"I don't mind observing," **Tom Wolfe** once wrote of custom cars, "that it is this same combination – money plus slavish devotion to form – that accounts for Versailles or St. Mark's Square."

Wolfe was writing nearly a half-century ago, when America was living large. We weren't just buying absurdly large SUVs, flaunting a sham wealth. The "kandy-colored tangerine-flake" midcentury hot rods were celebrations of a bold and vivacious culture. These days, with banks failing left and right, wages plummeting, unemployment soaring, and an auto industry that doesn't know its ass from its elbow,

it sometimes seems we're as far from that can-do America

as we are from the moon, where we once sent men just 'cause we could.

But if hot-rodders like Olofson can still remake battered old cars into things of brazen beauty, the rest of us can get to work remaking America into something equally bold and brave.

Please write Mr. Hackett at playingthrough@austinchronicle.com.

THE MAIN EVENT

★ **ASTROS CARAVAN** Mike Hampton, Mark Saccomanno, Jeff Bagwell, and Milo Hamilton will be in town meeting fans and signing autographs. Saltgrass Steak House autograph signing: *Mon., Jan. 26, 5:30-7pm. 2300 N. I-35, Round Rock, 512/238-0091. Free. Round Rock Express Luncheon (must purchase ticket to attend): Tue., Jan. 27, 11:30am-2pm. Dell Diamond, United Heritage Center, 3400 E. Palm Valley, Round Rock, 512/238-2206. UT autograph signing: Tue., Jan. 27, 2:30-4pm. Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium, north end zone, 403 23rd, 471-5418. Free. Academy Sports + Outdoors autograph signing: Tue., Jan. 27, 4:30-6pm. 12250 Research. Free.*

THE HOME TEAMS

AUSTIN TOROS are our own professional b-ball team and S.A. Spurs' affiliate playing in the heart of Downtown. High-quality hoops for a bargain price. Vs. Rio Grande Valley: *Fri., Jan. 23, 7:30pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 236-8333. \$8-23. www.nba.com/dleague/austin.*

AUSTIN TURFCATS TRYOUTS The Turfcats are thinking championship in their first year and are looking for players to fill out their roster. Athletes need to bring their own workout attire. The Turfcats are in the newly formed Southern Indoor Football League. *Sat., Jan. 24, 9am. Hutto High School, 302 College, Hutto. \$50. www.austinturfcats.com.*

AUSSIE RULES FOOTBALL The **Austin Crows** are holding tryouts for their 2009 season in the Texas Australian Football League. Soccer and American football players are encouraged to give it a go; all ages and skill levels welcome. See www.austinfooty.com for more. *Tuesdays, 6:30pm; Saturdays, 11:30am. The field in front of Barton Springs at Zilker, 750-4620. Free.*

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Women's Tennis Vs. Rice: *Sat., Jan. 24, noon. Penick-Allison Tennis Center, 1701 Trinity. Men's Basketball* Vs. Texas A&M: *Sat., Jan. 24, 7pm. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. Women's Basketball* Vs. Texas A&M: *Wed., Jan. 28, 7pm. Erwin Center. www.texasports.com.*

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Incarnate Word: *Thu., Jan. 22, 8pm. Vs. Texas A&M-International: Sat., Jan. 24, 4:30pm. Women's Basketball* Vs. Incarnate Word: *Thu., Jan. 22, 5:30pm. Vs. Texas A&M-International: Sat., Jan. 24, 2pm. www.stedwards.edu/athletics.*

TEXAS STATE Men's Basketball Vs. Lamar: *Sat., Jan. 24, 4pm. Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos. Women's Basketball* Vs. Texas San Antonio: *Wed., Jan. 28, 7pm. Strahan Coliseum. www.txstatebobcats.com.*

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Oglethorpe: *Fri., Jan. 23, 6pm. Vs. Sewanee: Sat., Jan. 24, 6pm. Women's Basketball* Vs. Oglethorpe: *Fri., Jan. 23, 8pm. Vs. Sewanee: Sat., Jan. 24, 8pm. southwesternpirates.cstv.com.*

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Southwestern Assemblies of God University: *Thu., Jan. 22, 7pm. Vs. Paul Quinn College: Sat., Jan. 24, 5pm. Vs. Jarvis Christian College: Mon., Jan. 26, 7:30pm. Women's Basketball* Vs. Southwestern Assemblies of God: *Thu., Jan. 22, 5:30pm. Vs. Paul Quinn College: Sat., Jan. 24, 5:30pm. Vs. Jarvis Christian College: Mon., Jan. 26, 5:30pm. 300 E. Huntland Dr.*

UT HOCKEY The Longhorns hockey team is here to fill your local hockey void now that the Ice Bats are gone and the Texas Stars won't drop the puck till late 2009. Vs. North Texas: *Fri-Sat., Jan. 23-24, 8pm. Chaparral Ice, 14200 N. I-35, 252-8500. \$5 (\$2, students; kids under 6 free). www.texasicehockey.com.*

RECREATION & FITNESS

AUSTIN SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB All leagues are coed with happy-hour fun following all games. Registration now open for wiffleball, softball, soccer, and sand volleyball. www.austinssc.com.

HILL COUNTRY OUTDOORS Learn about Austin's most active outdoors and social club: more than 40 events each month: hiking, camping, biking, sports leagues, socials, and more. *Mon., Jan. 26, 6:30pm. Opal Divine's at Penn Field, 3601 S. Congress. Free. www.hillcountryoutdoors.com.*

DODGEBALL ON ICE is exactly what it sounds like. Join the fine folks at **Hill Country Outdoors** for some frosty fun, and be sure to wear long pants, tennis shoes, and elbow/knee pads if you've got 'em. Balls and helmets will be supplied. Meet at the Veranda in Northcross Mall at 9pm for a confidence-boosting drink, and then head on out to the ice. *Fri., Jan. 23, 9pm. Chaparral Ice, Northcross Mall, 2525 Anderson, 383-1191. \$12.50. www.hillcountryoutdoors.com.*

TEXAS OUTDOORS WOMAN NETWORK is open to ladies of any age who are interested in outdoor fun. **Ashley Matthews** from Becoming an Outdoor Woman is this month's featured guest. *Tue., Jan. 27, 6:30pm. LCRA Red Bud Center, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., Rm. 225. www.townaustin.org.*

FREE FITNESS BOOT CAMP This mind-body-spirit boot camp includes cardio conditioning, fitness kickboxing, weight training, yoga, meditation, and more. Download a free week pass for Satori Method at its website. *Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, Jan. 26, 28, & 31. Austin Martial Arts Academy, 5000 Bee Caves Rd. #210, 698-9591. Free. www.austinmartialarts.com.*

FITNESS SEMINAR A half-hour talk on a current exercise-related topic followed by a half-hour Q&A. January's topic: What to Do When You're Inside the Gym? Call to reserve a space. *Wed., Jan. 28, 11:30am. Fitness on Fifth, 1213 W. Fifth Ste. C, 477-3883. Free. paul@fitnessonfifth.com, www.fitnessonfifth.com.*

AUSSIE'S GRILL & BEACHBAR VOLLEYBALL Registration is ongoing for Aussie's Spring I coed season. Fees are due at sign-up. Registration will continue until all slots are full. www.aussiesbar.com.

BY NICK BARBARO *soccer watch*

The **Austin Aztex** have announced their 2009 USL-1 season schedule. Some highlights: **30 games**, 15 at home (Nelson Field). **Opening game** is Saturday, April 18, 7:30pm, hosting the Minnesota Thunder. (In fact, the Aztex play eight of their first nine games at home, including three within the first eight days of the season.) **Home finale** is Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7 (the regular season then finishes with a tough Pacific Northwest road trip that same week to Portland, Ore., and Vancouver). Thirteen of the home games are Friday-Saturday-Sunday evenings; two Friday night games will be **national-ly televised** on Fox Soccer Channel: against the Puerto Rico Islanders, May 8, and the Charleston Battery, June 5. See the full schedule online.

The **UT Longhorn defense** was well represented in the first-ever **Women's Professional Soccer** college draft: **Kasey Moore** went 15th overall, Boston's second pick after taking **Amy Rodriguez** first overall. **Stephanie Logterman** and **Jill Gilbeau** went 20th and 22nd, to St. Louis and Washington, respectively. UT career scoring leader **Kelly (Wilson) Schmedes** is also heading to Boston, as the 44th selection. In all, 70 players were drafted by the seven teams, adding to the several dozen U.S. and international players the league had already signed. Play starts March 29.

The **U.S. Men** play their first game of 2009, a friendly against Sweden, Saturday, Jan. 24, 4:30pm on FSC.

SYSTEMA RUSSIAN MARTIAL ARTS SEMINAR World-renowned Russian master **Vladimir Vasiliev** presents a three-day seminar on the Systema martial arts style. *Jan. 23-25, Fri., 6-8pm; Sat., 10am-4pm; Sun., 9am-3pm. Embassy Suites Hotel, 5901 N. I-35. \$375. www.lifekido.com.*

TEXAS STATE TAILGATING FORUM The Bobcats are looking for ideas to expand and improve the tailgating experience at football games. This forum is open to the public. *Mon., Jan. 26, 4-6pm. Sac-N-Pak Room at Bobcat Stadium, San Marcos. Free. www.txstatebobcats.com.*

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

BIG CHILL ADVENTURE RACE is in its fifth year and offers an 8- to 12-hour sport course or an 18- to 24-hour adventure course. Expect some river paddling, mountain biking, trail running, and urban racing as part of this adventure race. *Sat-Sun., Jan. 24-25, 10am. Bastrop State Park, Bastrop, 512/576-5388. www.toocoolracing.com.*

★ **3M HALF MARATHON & RELAY** In its 15th year, this fast, downhill race is a favorite of Austin's runners. Run the half-marathon on your own or as part of a two-person relay team. Children 10 and under can participate in the Kids' Fun Run. *Sun., Jan. 25, 7am. Arboretum to Downtown, 984-7223. www.3mhalfmarathon.com.*

FROST YER FANNY DUATHLON features a weekend of triathlon planning and duathlon action. The race is being held in Leander, while the conference is at the Marriott North Austin. The 5K starts *Sunday at 8am* with the duathlon following at *9am. Sat-Sun., Jan. 24-25, 8am. Williamson Regional County Park, 3005 County Road 175, Leander, 512/350-9178. www.frostyerfanny.net.*

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Send submissions to the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail:

Mark Fagan (Sports):
gameplans@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor, at brenner@austinchronicle.com.

arts listings



Remember when space was cool? Back when humankind first dipped its toe in the vast dark cosmic sea? Then, anytime anyone punched through this mud ball's veil of atmosphere, it was news.

We all sat slack-jawed by the radio and television, following these rocket-riding daredevils into the inky infinite. We were so in awe, so dazzled by it, that we exalted it in language, saying that which was most cool "sent us into orbit," was "out of this world." Space was our portal into the future, a new frontier of possibility that inflamed our imaginations, and we dreamed about it, with its robots and ray guns, flying cars and fishbowl helmets, dreams that were fueled by Atom Age Homers whose stories and images let us see ourselves jockeying the stars, striding across the universe.

Space hasn't been cool that way for a long, long time, but the exhilarating tingle of those heady days returns in *Spaceman:Dada:Robot*, a song cycle with its head in the stars, created by the Electronic Planet Ensemble. The four members of this multidisciplinary band remain earthbound as they perform – they're as stationary as those old NASA techs monitoring a *Mercury* mission – but in less time than Yuri Gagarin spent on his first spin around the globe, they take us tripping through a dozen galaxies – or perhaps entire universes, since the brief poem-dramas penned and recited by argonaut David Jewell take place in alternate realities of moonstruck robots and Martians picnicking on Earth and intergalactic whales pursued by a mellow star-faring Ahab. It's not the space we know now but the space we used to know, the space of our dreams.

The concert takes place before a screen on which tech mastermind Sergio R. Samayoa projects images specific to the songs: shots of nebulae and star clusters from the Hubble Space Telescope, trippy abstract footage à la 2001: A Space Odyssey, computer-modeled water

droplets and hearts, antique robot toys, and half-century-old 8mm film of flora and vistas in national parks (home movies of a home planet that make the number "Space Hobo" all the more poignant). The visuals are key to transporting us beyond our terrestrial home, but what truly beams us up are the cosmic contributions of the band members. Rachel Fuhrer's explosive drums are the *Titan* rocket propelling the songs into orbit, where Samayoa's bass work creates an interstellar foundation, deep and steady, like the universal hum left over from the Big Bang, and Chad Salvata's celestial synth echoes the music of the spheres. Then there is the jumpsuit-clad Jewell, looking like Neil Diamond channeling Neil Armstrong, exuding the old-school cool of the coffeehouse bard as he tosses out astronomy-class factoids that blow your mind and sagas of jealous robots and interplanetary wanderers and aliens who are like flawless versions of ourselves. As in vintage sci-fi, Jewell is simultaneously shooting us up to other worlds and bringing us down to Earth, imagining fantastic, futuristic exteriors that excite our minds but that cover the same tender hearts and bruised souls that we've always harbored inside and no doubt always will, no matter what planet we're on.

Its retro vibe makes *Spaceman:Dada:Robot* feel a bit like a collection of old Ray Bradbury short stories scored by Seventies art rockers. But that makes its appeal sound merely nostalgic when what's really engaging about the show is the way it reconnects us to our sense of wonder about space, how its infinite reaches pull those of us on this tiny floating rock closer together. "We're all cosmonaut gypsies," Jewell reminds us here. "We're all lost in space." — Robert Faïres

theatre

OPENING

HAMLET Japhy Fernandes and the Austin Drama Club present a modernized version of the classic. E-mail him for location. *Thu.-Sat., Jan. 22-Feb. 14, 8pm.* ceasarbnice@yahoo.com.

AUSTIN CABARET THEATRE: JIM CARUSO'S CAST PARTY The popular NYC-based event pays a brief, pyrotechnic visit to this river city, as Stuart Moulton and ACT present Jim Caruso and Billy Stritch joining with some of Austin's best crooners and belters (e.g., the Fantastic Faireses) to bring you a night of fabulous entertainment, cabaret-style. Glimmer, glamor, glad rags – catered by Sterling Affairs. *Thu.-Fri., Jan. 29-30, 7pm. Mansion at Judges' Hill, 1900 Rio Grande, 453-ACTS, 453-ACTS.* www.mansionatjudgeshill.com.

DANCING AT LUGHNASA Don Toner directs an outstanding cast in this bittersweet, life-affirming Brian Friel play about an Irish bastard's childhood. *Jan. 23-March 1. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$26-28 (half price for students).* www.austinplayhouse.com

CLOSING

SPACEMAN:DADA:ROBOT The Electronic Planet Ensemble presents this multimedia environment of sight, sound, and words to celebrate the meaning of the universe and all of the creatures in it. *Local* creatures Sergio Samayoa, David Jewell, Chad Salvata, Rachel Fuhrer, and others will entertain and inform you with tales of existential robots, star whales, and what sort of cosmic complications ensue when Spaceman goes looking for his Starwoman. (See review, left.) *Through Jan. 24. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30 (two-for-one tickets on Thursday and Sunday with two nonperishable food items for SafePlace).* www.vortexrep.org.

THE LAST FIVE YEARS The two sides of a romantic relationship at its end are revealed in this Jason Robert Brown play, directed by Michael McKelvey for Austin Playhouse and Penfold Theatre, featuring David Gallagher and Anikka Johansson as the parallaxed lovers. *Through Jan. 25. Sat., 2 & 10:30pm; Sun., 8pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$20 (\$15, students).* www.austinplayhouse.com.

ONGOING

FRONTIERAFEST The (16th) annual five-week juggernaut of theatre and performance art – based at Hyde Park Theatre but extending itself (in the Long Fringe and other sections) all over town – continues. What sort of short shows are you looking for? Interesting monologues? Plays in progress? Comedy improv? Cabaret singers? Avant-garde dance? Short films? Multimedia? Yes: any of those, possibly all of those, on any given night of the **Short Fringe**. Then there's the **Long Fringe** with its longer presentations. Our estimable Arts Editor Robert Faïres provided a full schedule in the paper last week (see "Risk Immersion," Jan. 16); now we continue to list the basics of the week-by-week events here. See the HPT website for more, and see the review of week one, p.66. www.hydeparktheatre.org

SHORT FRINGE at Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY

Thu., Jan. 22, 8pm: Get Up is Shannon McCormick and Shana Merlin. "Bloomingdale's Elephants" is a comedy by P. Paulette MacDougal. Firth & Arjet improvise you some comedy. "Out of Lines" has Slam poets Christopher Lee and Christopher Michael bringing the macho. Big Poppa E is that ol' Eirik Ott doing his thing.

Fri., Jan. 23, 8pm: "Two Young Ladies From a Small Texas Town" is by Belva McKann. "Harold" is presented by Howard Petrick. "Anarky and the Baby Ruth" is a comedy by Melissa Jackson. "T.A.G." is an "exploration of transgressive acts and their impact on marked bodies." Murphy does long-form Chicago-style improv.

Sat., Jan. 24, 8pm: Best of Week Two

Tue., Jan. 27, 8pm: "Nine Hundred Pound Goose" by Walter Miranda. "The Park" by Brandon Furst. "Open Mic" by Kerri Lendo and John Morton. "Play It by Ear," a solo performance regarding life in the burbs, by Leticia

Rodriguez. "A Work in Progress" by Seth Johnson and Patton Quinn.

Wed., Jan. 28, 8pm: "Dress-Up" is Emma Holder and Julia Kitchen sketch and improv. "Lascivious Lunches and Decadent Dinners" by Priscilla Sample. Ratliff + Jackson – John and Lisa perform Chicago-style improv. "Folding House" by Sheila Gordon. TBA by Stephen Pruitt.

Thu., Jan. 29, 8pm: "Five 'Til" by Aimée Gonzalez. "Cash Smear" by David Garcia. "Lovey & Lovey" – Michael Jastroch and Tami Nelson are as funny as they are tipsy, and, boy, they're snookered. "Las Vegas Girl" by Timothy Braun. "Midlife Narrative With a Mandolin" by Nettie Hartssock.

LONG FRINGE at the Blue Theater, 916 Springdale, 927-1118

The Bird and the Bee from Capital Theatre. *Sun., Jan. 25, 2pm; Wed., Jan. 28, 7:30pm; Fri., Jan. 30, 7pm.*

Drywall from Buy the Whey. *Sat., Jan. 24, 2:15pm; Sun., Jan. 25, 8:15pm; Sat., Jan. 31, 8:45pm; Sun., Feb. 1, 6:30pm.*

The Dick Monologues from Spike Gillespie and friends. *Fri., Jan. 23, 7pm; Sat., Jan. 24, noon; Sat., Jan. 31, 4:15pm.*

A Matter of Taste from Poison Apple Initiative. *Sun., Jan. 25, 6:30pm; Thu., Jan. 29, 7pm; Sat., Jan. 31, 10:45pm; Sun., Feb. 1, 8:30pm.*

Sex, With Benefits from Daniel Huntley Solon. *Thu., Jan. 22, 9pm; Sat., Jan. 24, 8:30pm; Tue., Jan. 27, 7:30pm; Sat., Jan. 31, noon.*

Kill Will: The Lost Diary of Shakespeare from Strike Theatre. *Sat., Jan. 24, 4:15pm; Thu., Jan. 29, 8:45pm; Sun., Feb. 1, noon.*

The Science of Suggestion from Christina Houle and friends. *Thu., Jan. 22, 7pm; Fri., Jan. 23, 9:15pm; Sun., Jan. 25, noon; Sun., Feb. 1, 4:30pm.*

The Drowned World from Gary Owen and Ken Webster. *Sun., Jan. 25, 4:15pm; Sat., Jan. 31, 6:30pm; Sun., Feb. 1, 2:15pm.*

Reality Check from Green Room Theatre and those Medberrys. *Sat., Jan. 24, 6:30pm; Mon., Jan. 26, 7:30pm; Fri., Jan. 30, 9:15pm; Sat., Jan. 31, 2:15pm.*

LONG FRINGE at Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886.

Dance Carousel from Spank Dance Company and Austin Independent Choreographers. *Fri., Jan. 23, 7pm; Sun., Jan. 25, 1:45pm; Sat., Jan. 31, 4:15pm.*

Our Angle in Heaven from Maggie Gallant. *Sat., Jan. 24, 6pm; Sun., Jan. 25, noon; Wed., Jan. 28, 9:15pm; Sun., Feb. 1, 4pm.*

Things in Life from Ben Prager. *Fri., Jan. 23, 9pm; Sat., Jan. 24, 4:15pm; Thu., Jan. 29, 7pm; Sun., Feb. 1, noon.*

Tear Down from Hat Shop Productions and John M. Lively. *Thu., Jan. 22, 8:45pm; Sat., Jan. 24, noon; Fri., Jan. 30, 7pm; Sun., Feb. 1, 5:45pm.*

Let's Get Real from Michael Kranes (who generally rocks, btw). *Thu., Jan. 22, 7pm; Sat., Jan. 24, 10pm; Sun., Jan. 25, 3:45pm; Sat., Jan. 31, 6:15pm.*

52 Pick Up from Gemma Wilcox Productions. *Wed., Jan. 28, 7pm; Fri., Jan. 30, 9:15pm; Sat., Jan. 31, 8pm; Sun., Feb. 1, 1:45pm.*

Leela's Wheel is also from Gemma Wilcox Productions. *Tue., Jan. 27, 7:30pm; Thu., Jan. 29, 8:45pm; Sat., Jan. 31, 2:15pm; Sun., Feb. 1, 8pm.*

My Bugatti Story from Paul Ehrmann. *Sat., Jan. 24, 7:45pm; Sun., Jan. 25, 5:45pm; Sat., Jan. 31, noon.*

Cochise! from Improv for Evil. *Sat., Jan. 24, 2:15pm; Sun., Jan. 25, 8pm; Sat., Jan. 31, 10:15pm.*

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MISS WITHERSPOON Christopher Durang's acclaimed and sort of *Groundhog Day*-like comedy about a woman who is reincarnated over and over "until she gets it right" is directed by Karen Jambon for Different Stages and features Jennifer Underwood (*The Casket of Passing Fancy's* Duchess) in the title role. *Through Feb. 2. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 474-8497. \$15-30. www.main.org/diffstages.*

LOVE, SEX, AND THE I.R.S. Billy Van Zandt and Jane Milmore's wild farce – Love! Cheating! False identities! Cross-dressing! – is directed by Matt Gauck for the Palace Theater out in Georgetown. *Through Feb. 1. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Palace Theater, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. \$22 (\$20, seniors; \$12, students, military; \$8, age 15 or younger). www.thegeorgetownpalace.org.*

THE TEXCENTRIC SHOW The madcap jesters of Esther's Follies branch out with this send-up of oldtime radio shows: sketches, skits, live music, and so on, like a sort of locally warped version of *A Prairie Home Companion* to enhance your dining pleasure. With Sand Sheff, Ellana Kelter, and Ted Meredith, directed by Doug Ewart. *Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe, 5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020. Free (for the month of January). www.patsycowgirlcafe.com.*

BEEHIVE Larry Gallagher's original big-hair Sixties girl group musical is back for a Motowned month of roof-raising, dance-stepping farewell performances under the direction of, yes, Dave "Hard Workin'" Steakley. *Jan. 16-Feb. 22. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. www.zachtheatre.org.*

DINNER THEATRE

DEADLY HOUSEWIVES is an interactive murder-mystery from Gary Payne's Capital City Mystery Players. It's also a parody of everybody's favorite sexy suburban TV series. Enjoy plenty of pasta and parmigiana and suchlike fare as you help the comedic cast figure out who committed murder in the ever so desperate neighborhood. *Through Jan. 31. Saturdays, 7pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. \$33.50. www.meatballs.com.*

AUDITIONS

FLU SEASON Will "Thom Pain" Eno's play will be produced by the ACC theatre department under the direction of Jodi Jinks in February and March. They're looking for men and women (ages 35 and older). Call for details. *Thu., Jan. 22, 7pm. ACC Gallery Theatre, 1212 Rio Grande. 689-4864.*

DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF METAL?

The Getalong Gang is looking for performers for *Arthuriosis*, their heavy-metal retelling of the King Arthur legends. (Think: *Spinal Tap* meets *Excalibur*. Remember: These are are crazed wizards who went brilliantly metal with Ben Franklin a couple years ago.) Audition: cold readings and singing. E-mail Zen Taylor for an appointment. *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 24-25. zenobiagtaylor@yahoo.com.*

THE E WORD: A PLAYGROUND ADAPTION

Sharon Sparlin's new play is about the science vs. religion conflict over evolution, and it's set in a kindergarten – but it's not a children's play by any means. Seeking men and women (ages 18-45), all ethnicities encouraged to audition, for a production at the Off Center in May. Also, \$500 compensation available. Call or e-mail for appointment. *Sat., Jan. 24; Mon., Jan. 26. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 507-8535. sharonsparin@gmail.com.*

Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy.
brenner@austinchronicle.com.

Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical.
dance-classical@austinchronicle.com.

Ric Williams, litera. litera@austinchronicle.com.

Benné Rockett, visual arts. art@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor.
brenner@austinchronicle.com.

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FronteraFest Short Fringe, Week One

Hyde Park Theatre
Jan. 15

I once listened to Salman Rushdie refer to a three-page Colombian short story that did nothing but describe an earthquake erupting and destroying a city.

Although the story was the antithesis of his sprawling, grand novels, he was enthralled by the quick fury with which the tale was told. Roundabout point being: From the short spectacle to the elaborate epic, the dance piece to the philosophical ponderings to the improv, FronteraFest's Short Fringe offers its audiences the full theatrical buffet.

It really is a testament to the broad spectrum of the Austin arts scene's creativity. The five pieces put together for Thursday's lineup could not have been more different from one another. Bastion Carboni's "A Cure for Boredom," which led off the night, fell more into the short spectacle category. The setup comes from one of any teen horror films: A horny young couple escapes to a secluded spot for some lovemaking, only the spot isn't as secluded as it seems. In this case, a suicide case – think Woody Allen with a sneering Jack Nicholson twist – gets in the way of their coupling and everyday thinking.

This was followed up by 30 minutes of the wonderful improvisational stylings of Girltrap. Girltrap consists of ColdTowne graduates Brent Foshee and Josh Krilov, who showed a remarkable level of understanding and had the straight-man routine down to a T, allowing both players the chance to riff on some wild, hilarious characters. They had the audience in stitches with their crazy, misunderstanding fools, which made now-former President Bush an appropriate cameo.

Todo Big Time's "Don't Eat Tomatoes Before Bed or You Will Have Nightmares" followed Girltrap with an engrossing piece of social theatre. Most social theatre I've seen gets caught up in symbolism or is too heavy-

handed or forgoes theatrical necessities like plot or drama to deliver its message. Adam Martinez and Isabelle Salazar's production was full of dreams, humor, wacky characters, and a real playfulness, but rather than cheapening their message, their strong theatrical sense heightened what they were trying to say.

From one bilingual piece to another: the lounge act Le Sexy. Dripping with faux French accents and eroticism, singer Stephanie Russo and pianist Jason Laney worked through a number of songs such as "House of the Rising Sun" and "One." While the performers are a fictional romantic duo, they had to deal with Russo's amorous interaction with semiwilling participants from the audience, which kept the rest of us howling.

The night ended with Sarah Saltwick's "She Creatures: Scenes of Mythic Women." The main characters of the two pieces were a siren and a selkie (like a mermaid), respectively, and the show dealt with their attempted integrations into humanity's world. Well, more accurately they dealt with a man's world, as both mythical ladies had formed bonds with some male landlubbers. Special mention goes to Gina Houston's riveting performance of Cecilia, the selkie who struggles to understand the civilized world.

It was a beautiful night of theatre, full of the unexpected surprises that make FronteraFest worth going to again and again. Two of these submissions were nominated for Best of the Week, two more were deserving, and while it might not be the case, I hope every night of FronteraFest was as wonderful as this one.

– Avimaan Syam

comedy

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. www.capcitycomedy.com.

Cap City Open Mic Hey, it could be you up there slaying your friends and neighbors as they've slain you. *Sundays, 8pm. Free with college ID.*

Joe Rogan The stand-up man who spiced up your idiot box with long stints on *NewsRadio* and *Fear Factor* brings his enduring tour to the Cap City stage for a night of well-honed sharpness, following whoever has the cojones (or ovaries, as the case may be) to open for him. *Jan. 22-24. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

Mike MacRae is more than enough to give impressionists a good name, so they say, with his extended vignettes expertly skewering the day's pop icons. But you may want to see him because he was part of *Frank TV*. Or because **Paul Oddo** opens? *Jan. 27-31. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803-B Airport, 524-2807. www.coldtownetheater.com.

This week: The energetic **Parallelogramophonograph** rearranges your mind's furniture with **Northshore Local**. *Thu., 8pm. Sketchprov Showcase* Just what it sounds like, baybee. *Thu., 10pm.* Once again, it's that **Proctor** show, now with the **Faculty** and **Nice Astronaut**. *Fri., 8pm. Residencies* The improv showcase starts with **Northshore Local**. *Fri., 9pm. Punchline* The weekly collection of stand-up goodness continues! *Fri., 10pm. Stool Pigeon* features the storied Austin musician **Eric Roach** FTW! *Sat., 8pm. Cage Match* Two teams wage unholy war and heathen mayhem upon each other, improv-style. *Sat., 9pm. Cold, Cold Improv* The ColdTowne house troupe dishes up a comedy conflagration for your entertainment, along with **Look Cookie** and **Midnight Society**. *Sat., 10pm.*

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.estersfollies.com.

Esther's Follies The most popular troupe in town says, "Yes, we can ... entertain the hell out of you!" with its riotous musical comedy and sketches, now with the **Unleaded Supremes** singing "The Big Three Bailout," guest comedian **Derek Reid as Barack Obama** with some special words for our beleaguered nation, and a **new illusion** (it's called "Wet!") from master magician **Ray Anderson**. Thrills! Chills! Ripped-from-the-headlines events turned into comedy gold! *Reservations highly recommended. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military). Additional \$5 for special reserved seats.*

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE 617 Congress, 443-3688. www.hideouttheatre.com.

Friday: It's **Threefer Madness** time, in which three different troupes, drawn from the best in town, battle for improv supremacy. *8pm. \$10.* Next comes the eminently topical **This Week Tonight** show, working their wild improv off the news (of the weird, of the wonderful, of the just plain newsworthy) of the past seven days. Holy current events, anchorman! *10pm. \$10.*

Saturday: After School Improv Here's some fresh improv based on audience suggestions and performed in the style of those old-school teenage cautionary tales. *Marijuana! Gangs! Sexual predators! Oh noes! 8pm. \$10. Maestro* is a fierce, multipartite battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by you, the audience. *Highly recommended. 10pm. \$10.*

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. www.thevelvetaaroom.com.

Open Mic Night These are your would-be comic neighbors, three minutes at a time: Love them; fear them. This week's host: **Tubby Tucker**. *Thursdays, 10pm.*

Seth Cockfield This kid's *funny*; we're not kidding you. He's downright Sethquipedalian, even. Give him a look-see this weekend, and **Jake Flores** and **Matt Kordelski** will be your openers. *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 23-24, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.*

BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE!

THE AUSTIN COMEDY TRAINWRECK features the best comics in Austin, so they suggest – right there in the Hole, on the Drag, in the heart of collegiate Texas. *Tuesdays, 10pm. Hole in the Wall, 2538 Guadalupe. \$5. www.myspace.com/austincomedytrainwreck.*

KICK BUTT COMEDY ComedySportz Reunion Shows Les McGehee and his coterie of seasoned comedy cutups return to the stage with this series of tomfoolery. *Lesfoolery, actually. Saturdays, 6pm. Monday Night Mash: Improv Mondays, 8pm. Open Mic Comedy Wednesdays, 8pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425.*

VICKIE SHAW AND JENNIE MCNULTY: DVD RELEASE SHOW Both women were recently voted among the Top 10 funniest lesbians in America. Both women are LOGO channel stars. Both women will do separate stand-up routines, then perform *improvised* comedy together from audience suggestions. Ah, but only one of them is celebrating the release of her *You Can Take the Girls Out of Texas* DVD. Can you guess who it is? (Hint: See the website.) *Fri., Jan. 23, 8pm. MCC Austin at Freedom Oaks, 8601 S. First. 877/278-4842. \$20. www.vickieshaw.com.*

LAST GAS COMEDY Stand-up comedy every Saturday. *Sat., Jan. 24, 9pm. Homer's Bar & Grill, 1779 Wells Branch Pkwy. #114. Free. www.lastgascomedy.com.*

NO! WIRE! HANGERS! The Austin Comedy Trainwreck's second annual comedy extravaganza celebrates 36 years of *Roe v. Wade* and features Ruby Collins, Chris Cubas, Andrea Grimes, David James, Avi Hartman, and Isaac Harrigle. Guess which ones have had an abortion, and win a prize! *Tue., Jan. 27, 9:30pm. Beerland, 711 Red River, 479-ROCK (7625). \$5. www.beerlandtexas.com.*

SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL Gnap! Theater Projects takes the Janus-faced month to a close with this excellent improv showcase, featuring the ichthyological antics of **Fishbowl Soldiers** and the diabolical improv wizardry of **Get Up**. *Sat., Jan. 24, 10:30pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.salvagevanguard.org.*

THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS IMPROV is what irrepressible improv booster Les McGehee is calling it, as he and his talented friends Megan Flynn and Owen Egerton present and evening of such examples of extemporaneous derring-do as "Mousetrap," "Oxygen Deprivation," and "The Swinging Pendulum of Death." Sure to be a hoot and a half, although it's all "Yes, and" fun and games until someone gets hurt, you wacky kids. *Mon., Jan. 26, 7:30pm. Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz, 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320. \$9.50. www.originalalamo.com*

dance

CALL FOR CHOREOGRAPHERS: BIG RANGE AUSTIN DANCE FESTIVAL Big

Range Austin is a dance festival that presents contemporary dance exploring diverse concepts within the movement arts, encouraging experimentation, collaboration, and performance excellence in a fun and challenging environment for artists and audiences. Festival dates are *June 5-14* at Ballet Austin's AustinVentures StudioTheatre. See the website for details and applications. Deadline: *Jan. 31. www.spankdance.com.*

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE: AUDITIONS Entry-level adult and youth male and female dancers and actors who wish to be trained for membership in the company are needed. Candidates must possess outstanding, raw dance talent and/or natural acting ability and a vibrant stage presence. Previous knowledge of a Latin/folkloric dance style and formal acting skills helpful but not necessary. Call or e-mail for details. *Through January. 251-8122. dance@prfdance.org. www.prfdance.org.*

SPANK DANCE COMPANY: DANCE CAROUSEL Ten choreographers offer 40 dances in 40 minutes in this perennial FronteraFest Long Fringe fave! There are few better ways to sample modern dance, and these little morsels range from the absurd to the abstract, making for a feast of dance for first-time viewers or veterans of the form. *Fri., Jan. 23, 7pm; Sun., Jan. 25, 1:45pm; Sat., Jan. 31, 4:15pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.spankdance.com.*



THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS IMPROV: LOCAL MADCAPS LES MCGEHEE (L) AND OWEN EGERTON JOIN MEGAN FLYNN AT THE ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE DOWNTOWN ON MONDAY.

TWO LEFT FEET

BELLY DANCE WITH FINGER CYMBALS Stacey Lizette teaches all levels of dancers, using different cymbal rhythms with a focus on fluidity of hand and arm movements. (Finger cymbals are available for purchase or loan.) *Mondays, 7:30-8:30pm. Tapestry Dance Company, 2302 Western Trails. www.staceylizette.net.*

DANCE INTERNATIONAL Each night features a variety of ballroom and Latin dances; each month sees the start of a new course. No partner necessary. *Sundays, 6-8pm. Dancers Workshop, 183 & Balcones Woods. Weeknights, times vary. Hills Fitness Center, 4615 Bee Caves Rd., 32-DANCE. Fees vary. www.dancein.org.*

ESQUINATANGO: GET READY FOR CARNAVAL! A variety of Brazilian samba classes for all levels of dancers, led by Rebekah Fowler, includes a special workshop, a free open house, and weekly classes, all to get you in shape and in the mood for the biggest party of the year. Thus far, anyway. See the website for details. *Through Jan. 30. 209 Pedernales. 524-2772. www.esquinatangoaustin.com.*

EGYPTIAN BELLY-DANCE CLASSES WITH DRAGON Beginners to advanced dancers are invited to learn from one of Austin's favorite belly dancers. *Various locations, 295-2036, 750-7037. \$15 per class or six for \$75. www.desertpassion.com.*

THE DANCE ZONE: ADULT DANCE & FITNESS CLASSES Unique twists on standard favorites: Ballet NEXT, L.A. Street Jazz, Cardio Jamz, Cardio Strip-Hop, and more. See the website for details. *The Dance Zone, 2323 San Antonio. 236-9328. www.inthedancezone.com.*

SCOTTISH BALLROOM DANCING Learn the ballroom dances of Scotland: lively jigs and reels and elegant strathspeys. No partner needed, but couples welcome. *Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm. Quicksilver Dance Center, 8711 Burnet Rd. Ste. H-100, 327-2869. First class free.*

GO DANCE: DROP IN AND DANCE CLASSES No partner or experience necessary for these easy-to-access classes. *Through Jan. 30. Fridays, 7:30-9pm (intro classes), 9-11pm (social dancing). Go Dance Studio, Northcross Mall, 2525 W. Anderson, 339-9391. \$15. www.godancestudio.com.*

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES WITH TWYLA GRACE Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble teaches ongoing classes in belly dance. Call or write for details. *Mon. & Wed., 8:30-9:30pm, 12687 Research at Oak Knoll, 971-0188. www.twylabellydance.com.*

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS ABD sponsors ballroom dancing with DJ'd music weekly, year-round. *Saturdays, 7:30-11pm. Austin Uptown Dance, 8868 Research, 989-3939. www.austinballroomdancers.org.*

AUSTIN BODYCHOIR: FREESTYLE DANCE *Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 7:45pm; Sundays, 10am. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. www.bodychoir.org.*

LUCILA DANCE PRODUCTIONS: CLASSES FORMING Belly dancing (all levels), flamenco, salsa/merengue, hip-hop, creative movement for ages 5-10, and tai chi. *Lucila Dance Studio, 1700 S. Lamar, 416-8800. www.luciladance.com.*

CONTACT IMPROVISATION DANCE JAMS Participants move in and out of contact with one or more people through a common center of gravity. All are welcome. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm; Sundays, 4:30-6pm. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. \$5.*

ARIEL DANCE THEATRE: NEW MODERN CLASSES Andrea Ariel teaches modern dance to students of all levels. Please call for more information. *Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm. Khabele Studio, 701 W. Seventh, 458-4258. \$12 drop-in/\$10 class card.*

MODERN DANCE CLASSES Ellen Bartel of Spank Dance Company leads a series of classes in modern dance (all levels). Times and prices vary. See the website for details. *Tapestry Dance Company studios, 2302 Western Trails. www.tapestry.org.*

DANCE ASSOCIATES AND AUSTIN PARD: DANCE CLASSES Kids (ages 24 months and older) can participate in dance, gymnastics, and movement classes all over town, courtesy of Dance Associates and the city's Parks & Recreation Department. See the website for details. 323-6838. www.danceassociatesaustin.com.

FLAMENCO CLASSES Intermediate classes at the Khabele Studio Downtown. Call Chloe for details. 923-3270.

ESTUDIO FLAMENCO Flamenco dance classes, centrally located. *Saturdays, noon-1pm (beginner), 1-2:30pm (intermediate). 2801 W. 45th, 382-1366. Fees vary. www.estudioflamenco.com.*

SCANDINAVIAN DANCING Turning and improvised couple dancing for beginning to advanced dancers. No partners needed; wear slick-soled shoes. *Thursdays, 7:30-9:45pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598. \$3. www.austinscandi.org.*

AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE Traditional social dances to live music every week. You don't need a partner, and every dance will be taught before you stride out on your own. *Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. \$3 donation. www.cityofaustin.org/parks/hancock.htm.*

NIA CLASSES The Nia technique is an energizing workout inspired by dance, martial arts, and healing arts. First class is free. *Mon. & Fri., 9:30-10:30am; Mon. & Thu., 6-7pm; Sat., 10:30am. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 922-1581. \$10 each class. www.cityofaustin.org/parks/hancock.htm.*

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS Learn a variety of couples and line dances from around the world. All levels of experience welcome. No partner required. *Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons); 8:15-11pm (open dance). Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. \$5. www.aifd.cc.*



WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH ALL THOSE AWESOME AND EERIE AND FUNKY CHAIRS ON DISPLAY AT THE AUSTIN MUSEUM OF ART? THE CHAIR-MAN HIMSELF, DAMIAN PRIOUR, WILL TELL YOU ON THURSDAY.

KICK BUTT BLUES DANCE Ass-kickin' blues for you to shake your booty to! Food and beverages available. *Fridays (except third Friday each month), 9pm-1am. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 736-2662. \$5. www.kickbuttcffee.com.*

FOUR ON THE FLOOR: CLASSES Ongoing classes for various levels of expertise in swing and Lindy Hop culminate in a weekly dance. New classes usually start the first Tuesday of the new month. *Tuesdays, 7pm (classes), 9:30pm (open dance). Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 453-3889. Prices vary. www.fouronthefloor.com.*

AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE A couple hundred swingers hit the dance floor once a week for DJ-spun sounds of past blasts. A beginners' lesson starts the evening. *Thursdays, 8pm-12mid. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 476-5845. \$5 (\$2, members). www.austinswingsyndicate.org.*

classical music

OPENING

SOUNDS SEEN, HUES HEARD Viola by Choice and Audio Inversions present this benefit concert of works inspired by colors and expand the senses with live improvised paintings by Jan Roset while six of Austin's best violists perform works for solo viola and ensemble. Roset's creations will be on sale after the performance. *Fri., Jan. 23, 8pm. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Eighth, 913-6554. \$15 (\$12, seniors; \$8, students; \$5, children). www.violabychoice.org.*

TEXAS EARLY MUSIC PROJECT: ORPHEUS BRITANNICUS Laurie Young Stevens and friends headline this annual fete of early music performed on original instruments, this time celebrating the 350th anniversary of Henry Purcell's birth and the 250th anniversary of G.F. Handel's death with works by the anniversarians, as well as tunes by Matthew Locke, John Bull, and more. *Fri., Jan. 23, 8pm. First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whitis. Sun., Jan. 25, 3pm. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1500 N. Cap. of TX Hwy., 371-0099. \$20 (\$15, seniors, students). www.early-music.org.*

UT'S BUTLER SCHOOL OF MUSIC Great Organ Series: Eric Mellenbruch Works by Buxtehude, Mendelssohn, Weckman, and Bach. *Sun., Jan. 25, 4pm. Bates Recital Hall. \$15 (\$10, UT faculty, staff, seniors; \$5 students).* **Two Jazz Pianists** Director of Jazz Studies Jeff Hellmer and Kennedy Center's Mary Lou Williams Piano Competition winner Helen Sung. *Mon., Jan. 26, 8pm. Recital Studio, MRH 2.608, UT campus. \$10 (\$5, students).* **Bach Cantata Project** Handel's "Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened" and *Ich habe genug* by Bach. *Tue., Jan. 27, noon. Blanton Museum of Art. Free with paid admission to the museum. 471-5401. www.music.utexas.edu.*

NOTES & ENCORES

TEATRO DE ARTES DE JUAN SEGUIN: NOCHE DE GALA CONTESTANT SEARCH The 24th annual competition is *March 7*, and there is a mandatory meeting for auditioners on *Jan. 31*. The competition is open to anyone wishing to showcase his or her mariachi singing talent onstage, accompanied by a professional mariachi group. Vocalistas will compete in four divisions: youth, amateur, professional, and masters (previous winners of the professional division). Vocalistas wishing to participate in the competition should provide name, address, and telephone number by phone or e-mail; registration packets are available on the group's website. Mandatory meeting: *Sat., Jan. 31, 5pm. Teatros Cultural Arts Center, Seguin. 830/303-3320. www.teatrodeartes.org.*

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE: MUSICIAN AUDITIONS Professional musicians are invited to audition for PRFD's orchestra. The company is interested in singers and instruments of almost any kind, including acoustic guitars, cuatro and accordion players, large and small percussion, strings, horns, winds, and more. Advanced youth musicians and singers are also sought. As segments of Puerto Rico's traditional music are not in written form, musicians should have a proficiency for playing by ear. Call or e-mail for details. *Through January. 251-8122. www.prfdance.org.*

visual arts

EVENTS

OBAMA PORTRAITS BY JEFF MAC Yes, they did. *Sat., Jan. 24, 6-9pm. Libertine Gallery, 612 Brazos #100. Free. www.libertinegallery.com.*

AMOA: WHAT WAS HE THINKING? Sculptor Damian Priour is interviewed by AMOA Executive Director Dana Friis-Hansen. Learn about Priour's career as an artist, his artistic and metaphorical interests in the chair, and his Texas Chair Project. *Thu., Jan. 22, 7pm. 823 Congress, 495-9224. Free with museum admission. www.amoa.org.*

OPENING

CREATIVE RESEARCH LAB: A STRANGE LAND features works by Beili Liu, Lynn Richardson, Cauleen Smith, Chris Taylor, and Mapping Exchange artist-in-residence (from Argentina) Erica Bohm. Panel discussion: *Sun., Feb. 1, 2pm*. Closing reception: *Sat., Feb. 7, 6-9pm*. Exhibition: *Jan. 24-Feb. 7. 2830 E. MLK, 477-9328. uts.cc.utexas.edu/~crlab.*

AUSTIN GALLERIES: TEXAS HILL COUNTRY LANDSCAPES Original paintings of Central Texas vistas by Hermon Adams, Manuel Garza, Cal Gaspard, Sally Minter, Rick Morris Patterson, Jim Rodgers, Don Ward, and many others. Reception: *Sat., Jan. 24. Exhibition: Through Feb. 28. 1219 W. Sixth, 495-9363.*



‘Warren Oates in the Economic Crisis of 2008’

Okay Mountain
Through Feb. 21

Okay Mountain is piled full of paintings and drawings in the exhibit “Warren Oates in the Economic Crisis of 2008.” This group show curated by Dave Bryant features an assortment of artists he met and befriended while traveling over the last couple of years. These artists are akin aesthetically to semipsychodelic

local artists such as Eric Gibbons, Ryan Lauderdale, and Nathan Green but come from across the country. With typical acumen, Bryant’s show title is snippy, topical, and dated. To these artists and many other working artists, capitalism and celebrity rarely align their goals with painterly ones. These artists are used to working in a social void, making art that applies to their own sensibilities regardless of larger cultural support. At the crowded opening for this show, Bryant said, “Warren Oates was an artist’s artist,” a character actor whose name just kept coming up. Working artists from Portland, Ore., to Brooklyn sat and told Bryant about their appreciation of this weathered man. His visage and memory are the real topics of this art show.

Artists like to pick their own heroes, and, as in ethics, intention is everything in visual art. There is a weirdly charming triptych by Jim Tozzi, a member of the PFFR collective in Brooklyn. He painted a simple color wheel at the top of each black composition. Underneath each wheel, a delicately furry little green monster who worships it like it’s a moon raises talismans and its hands toward it. It’s a very positive, reverential piece that summons the spirit of R. Crumb and Maurice Sendak as influential and heroic.

In addition to pencil and ink drawings of the man himself, there are tributes to the era that defined Oates: the Seventies. Jennifer Sullivan has painted some glam portraits of the iconic Jane Fonda, a series of wildly colorful interview stills that manages to communicate a sense of her nervous hands and her signature big eyes with raccoonlike mascara. These forcefully awkward paintings grew on me by the second as I adjusted my eyes to her vivid palette. Frosty mugs of beer, apple pies, and rainbows are scattered happily throughout the show. There are a couple of graphite drawings of tie-dye patterns by Mike Pare that appear unironic perhaps because they are hung near a cute, vintage skateboard Mandela drawing with similar circles. Johnny Ryan’s graphic interpretation (with lots of flies) of Sam Peckinpah’s *Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia* is a literal tribute to the classic 1974 film.

Seventies pop culture was real. Sometimes I tend to dismiss those years as naive and reckless or undervalue them, but the artists in this fun show refuse to. Instead, they relish and lift up that time through their vintage, outsider hero. This tribute to Warren Oates sent me off pondering the social significance of Harry Dean Stanton. Maybe that could be a show for next year.

— Rachel Koper

CLOSING

GAY FAY KELLY: DICK LAVINE Lavine organizes diptychs and triptychs based on repetition of form and color but bound by an overreaching play on words. Call for appointment. *Through Jan. 28. 1811 W. Eighth, 478-7676. www.gayfaykellyart.com.*

ART ON 5TH presents its first Art Fair. *Through Jan. 24. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., noon-5pm. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111. www.arton5th.com.*

D BERMAN GALLERY: ANN MATLOCK & MARJORIE MOORE Two Texas women respond through their intricate and compelling artwork to different aspects of their environment of the last few years. *Through Jan. 24. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.*

ONGOING

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. *12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577. www.eyeccontactart.com.*

AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. *1219 W. Sixth.*

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a non-profit Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. *6601 Felix, 385-3591. www.serieproject.org.*

STUDIO C GALLERY: PONIES & PENGUINS New works by Holly Bronko and Alexandra Valenti. *2309 Thornton.*

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY is featuring work by artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. *78 San Marcos, 457-0171. www.pablataboadastudio.com.*

ARTSPOKEN GALLERY: FROM A TO Z Photographs by Bill Oakey and Jack Marshall, glasswork by Kim Brill. *1507 W. Koenig, 589-2905. www.artspoken.com.*

AUSTIN ART GLASS This glassblowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, as well as glassblowing classes and free demonstrations. *1608 S. Congress, 916-4527. www.austinartglass.com.*

SEEING SPECIAL THINGS The works of more than 400 Austin Independent School District students explore the question “Where do creative ideas come from?” *Through Feb. 1. 823 Congress, 495-9224. Free. www.amoa.org.*

BLANTON MUSEUM: ALTERNATE WORLDS The work of self-taught artists often reflects a unique perspective framed by complex personal experiences. See how here. *Through March 8. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.*

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. *108 W. 43rd, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.*

BROCCA GALLERY New paintings by Augusto Brocca and sculpture from award-winning sculptor Gary Yarrington. *Through Feb. 2. 1103 E. Sixth, 628-1306. www.broccagallery.com.*

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of a South Austin home. Hours: *Saturdays and Sundays, noon-9pm, or by appt. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. www.keepeaustinweird.com.*

DIBONA STUDIO Oil paintings and “sculptural tattoos” by Joyce DiBona. *404 W. Milton, 851-2646.*

BUTRIDGE GALLERY: LACEY RICHTER “Paint, Dance, and Dialogues” are the new works by this artist. *Through Jan. 31. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. www.cityofaustin.org/dougherty/gallery.htm.*

AUSTIN GREEN ART: FREE PAPER Annette Lawrence’s exhibition addresses issues of excess and consumerism, with daily junk mail both the inspiration and material used for the creations on display. *Through Feb. 6. 2830 E. MLK, 477-9328. www.austingreenart.org.*

FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY *309-B Bowie, 320-0072.*

LBJ WILDFLOWER CENTER: BARRY GEORGE Eleven whimsical and captivating metal sculptures are on display through the gardens. *Through Jan. 31. 4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. www.wildflower.org.*

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE ABSTRACT Curated by New York-based Maureen Mahony. Reception with curator’s talk: *Sat., Jan. 24, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 28. 300 West #1318, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.*

MEXIC-ARTE: CREANDO FUERZA: CAMBIO Y PERMANENCIA A collective portfolio by members of Consejo Gráfico, an independent network of Latino printmaking centers, explores the centers’ diverse origins and dimensions and cultural resonance within a broader American community of printmaking. *Through March 1. 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.*

CITY OF AUSTIN EMPLOYEES ART EXHIBITION *Through Feb. 14. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 454-9912. Free. www.vsatx.org.*

MITCHIE’S FINE BLACK ART presents an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork. *6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.*

DIVERSEARTS: THE ROAD TO HOPE New East Gallery commemorates the inauguration of Barack Obama, 44th president of the United States of America, with the opening of this new show, subtitled “A Photographic Glimpse of African-American Life, 1850-1960,” including a number of rarely seen images from some of the 20th century’s most celebrated documentary photographers. *Through Feb. 28. 1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438. www.diversearts.org.*

OKAY MOUNTAIN: WARREN OATES IN THE ECONOMIC CRISIS OF 2008 This multiartist show is themed loosely on deceased character actor Warren Oates (!), because those OK MT folks, they like to mess with the obscurish pop culture in interesting ways. (See review, left.) *Through Feb. 21. 1312 E. Cesar Chavez Ste. B, 293-5177. Free. www.okaymountain.com.*

REAL GALLERY: MULTICULTURAL ARTISTS PARTNERSHIP Members’ holiday art exhibition. *2824 Real, 775-0458. www.artworksbykathiherrin.com.*

IMAGINE ART: 12 X 12 *Through March 25. 1314 W. 45th, 323-9390. www.rfbdtexas.org.*

ST. EDWARD’S UNIVERSITY: FACULTY ART *Through Feb. 5. 3001 S. Congress, 448-8400. www.stedwards.edu.*

STUDIO2GALLERY: LOVE’S WRIT New works from a diversity of artists juried by Jacqueline May. *Through Feb. 14. 1700 S. Lamar #318, 386-9233. www.studio2gallery.com.*

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: A GRAND AFFAIR New works from the gallery’s 50 represented artists, each piece priced less than a grand. Highly recommended. *Through Jan. 30. 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.*

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: LESLEE FRASER Suburban malls, the Bible, scientific theory, and domestic talismans all provide ripe fodder for Fraser’s miniature parables as she assembles familiar tokens into vignettes both tender and thoroughly skewed. *Through Feb. 21. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.*

SPACES

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY Stained and leaded glass and mosaics. *701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. www.decola-eusebi.com.*

SPIDER HOUSE Sculptured word art by Austin artist Joseph Santandrea. *Through Feb. 14. www.travelzealot.com.*

ARTWORKS GALLERY Tropical butterflies displayed in plexiboxes designed by G.W. Clark. *1214 W. Sixth, 472-1550.*

CAFFE MEDICI: LANCE ROSENFELD New photography. *1101 West Lynn, 569-0432. www.rosenfieldphotography.com.*

LBJ WILDFLOWER CENTER: STEBER & IRWIN the found-object art of Barbara Irwin is displayed with watercolor paintings of wildflowers and other works in mixed media by artist Keith Steber. *4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. www.wildflower.org.*

ROADHOUSE RELICS Vintage neon, carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture by Todd Sanders. *1720 S. First, 442-6366. www.roadhouserelics.com.*

WESTS Artwork by Dan-Ramone Vivan Chavez, Raquel Reyes, and others. *408 Josephine.*

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

STUDIO2GALLERY: MODELS AND ARTISTS, THE MUSE IN HISTORY Juror Rick Fink invites you to explore the creative collaboration between models and artists. This show will feature artists working in different mediums to record nude and seminude images. See website for applications and more. Deadline: Feb. 10. 1700 S. Lamar #318, 386-9233. www.studio2gallery.com.

litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

FIVE THINGS Five funny people create a prop-based piece of art and present it “in spectacular fashion.” This month, it’s female performers celebrating men. Performers Diane Fleming, Sarah Smith, Jeannette Muniz, Leah Moss, and Margo Rabb are accompanied by music from Peoplefood, Jeannette and Richard, and Melody Murder. Fri., Jan. 23, 7pm. United States Art Authority, 512 W. 29th, 480-9562. \$1.

SPIKE GILLESPIE AND KATHERINE TANNEY have bravely and brilliantly edited *Stricken: The 5,000 Stages of Grief*, a collection of essays on a subject too often ignored in our youth-obsessed and death-denying culture. Contributors include Owen Egerton, Lyman Grant, Gary Kent, Margaret Moser, Mollie McLean Staffa, David Zuniga, as well as Spike and Katherine. Heartbreaking, inspirational, and uplifting. Highly recommended. Wed., Jan. 28, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

DAVID AND NIC SHEFF join forces to tell their versions of the story of Nic’s meth addiction in their respective memoirs, *Beautiful Boy* and *Tweak*. Highly recommended. Tue., Jan. 27, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

CHRIS KELLEY AND FELIBERTO PEREIRA present *I Was a Stranger: Hope for a Hidden World*, a story of Christians in Castro’s Cuba. Sun., Jan. 25, 6pm. Shepherd of the Hills Christian Church, 6909 W. Courtyard Dr.

BORDERLANDS’ COMMUNITY OF POETS features Mary Ellen Branan, Ken Fontenot, Laura Kooris, Beth Kropf, Ashley Williams, and more of the Austin Poetry Society. Hosted by Katherine Durham Oldmixon. Always recommended. Sun., Jan. 25, 4pm. Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 899-3370. Free.

JAMI ATTENBERG slips into the world of *The Kept Man* and learns how to make a clean start after years suspended between grief and hope. A great read. Sun., Jan. 25, 3pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

RAJ PATEL serves up *Stuffed and Starved: Markets, Power, and the Hidden Battle for the World’s Food System*. Highly recommended. Sun., Jan. 25, 6pm. St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, 14311 Wells Port Dr., 251-0698. \$11.50. www.sustainablefoodcenter.org.

BOHO COCO LIVE Christopher Savage, Erin Vaughan, Jeff Daily, Chris Daily, and Gabriel Matt Nicholson celebrate the third issue of lit zine *Boho Coco*. Music, poetry, noise, and other forms of performance. Sat., Jan. 24, 8pm. Cathedral of Junk, 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. Free. www.austinnewblog.blogspot.com.

MEET JOE NICK PATOSKI for a lively discussion of his new book, *Willie Nelson: An Epic Life*. Highly recommended. Sat., Jan. 24, 2-3pm. Twin Oaks Library, 2301 S. Congress, 442-4664. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

ELLE NEWMARK stirs up an alchemical adventure in Renaissance Venice in her debut novel, *The Book of Unholy Mischief*. Fri., Jan. 23, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

RACHEL RESNICK mainlines the hardest of all the hard wants in her raw memoir *Love Junkie*. Thu., Jan. 22, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

BOOKWOMAN BOOKGROUP finds an Affinity for Victorian spiritualists by Sarah Waters. Wed., Jan. 28, 7pm. BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. www.ebookwoman.com.

THE VOYAGE OUT heads to the coast for *Brownsville* by Oscar Casares. Sun., Jan. 25, 5pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY CLUB measures *A Fraction of the Whole* by Steve Toltz. Mon., Jan. 26, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

A WORLD LIT: THE FLAME OF LITERATURE boils over for *Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel. Mon., Jan. 26, 7-8pm. Hampton Library, 5125 Convict Hill Rd., 892-6680.

SPICEWOOD SPRINGS MYSTERY CLUB Read or watch any Agatha Christie book or movie adaptation for discussion: They’ll be paying tribute to the classic mystery writer. Mon., Jan. 26, 7-8:30pm. Spicewood Springs Branch Library, 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd.

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT: LOVE & FORGIVENESS is a five-part reading and discussion series exploring the themes of love and forgiveness in everyday life through classic and contemporary literature. First up is *Paula* by Isabel Allende. Thu., Jan. 22, 7-8:30pm. University Hills Library, 4721 Loyola, 929-0551.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

THE MUCH ADO ABOUT PUBLISHING WORKSHOP presents *Surviving the Book Industry to Become Well-Published*, a workshop for professional writers, journalists, authors, and those on their way. This is the same workshop offered on different days on South Congress. See website for details. Sat., Jan. 24, 2-5pm; Wed., Jan. 28, 6:30-9:30pm. \$140. www.independentpublisher.com.

OPEN MICS

GENUINE JOE All acts welcome. No cover songs. Thursdays, 7:30-10pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoe.com.

THE HIDEOUT is hosted by Thom the World Poet. Edgar Pace returns from the Ren Fair and promises to round a bout. Bring canned food for the Poets Pantry. Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). www.hideouttheatre.com.

HOT MAMA’S OPEN MIC Food, beer, wine, and caffeine available. Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm. Hot Mama’s Espresso Bar, 2401 E. Sixth, 476-6262. www.myspace.com/hotmamasexpresso.

SPOKEN AND HEARD is co-hosted by Stacey Shea and Element 615. Uncensored round robin. Sundays, 7-9pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425. www.kickbuttcoffee.com.

AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY This fourth Thursday open mic features Herman M. Nelson and Marcelle Kasproicz. Sign up to read after the featured poets. Thu., Jan. 22, 7-9pm. NeWorlDeli, 4101 Guadalupe, 451-7170. www.newworlddeli.com.

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running weekly open mics in Texas. No cover. Uncensored. Hosted by David Bates. Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rmpoetryaustin.com.

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry and a rotating group of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, pomo theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast of an evening. Open sign-up, 12 poets per week. \$100 cash prizes. Wednesdays, 8pm. Scoot Inn & Bier Garten, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200. www.austinslam.com.

BORDERS-ON-THE-WORD is always hosted by Barbara Youngblood Carr. Co-hosted this month by Herman Nelson and Chip Ross. Featured are Nelson, Ross, and John Berry. Wed., Jan. 28, 7pm. Triumph Cafe, 3808 Spicewood Springs Rd., 343-1875. www.triumphcafe.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! *the clear glass advance of what whitens & grays – the box of a field or heaven – the radiance of blue melting into days slipping (tubers tender in their cold beds – plant them first – how they mark the rows waiting. do not let them get too big, grow hard & hot to your tongue.) speak slowly of what the distance brings – small thing to watch ghosts drift in the soft swirl silvering between his hand & her years – green bouquets mouthing cloud songs. Namaste. Vaya con dios.*

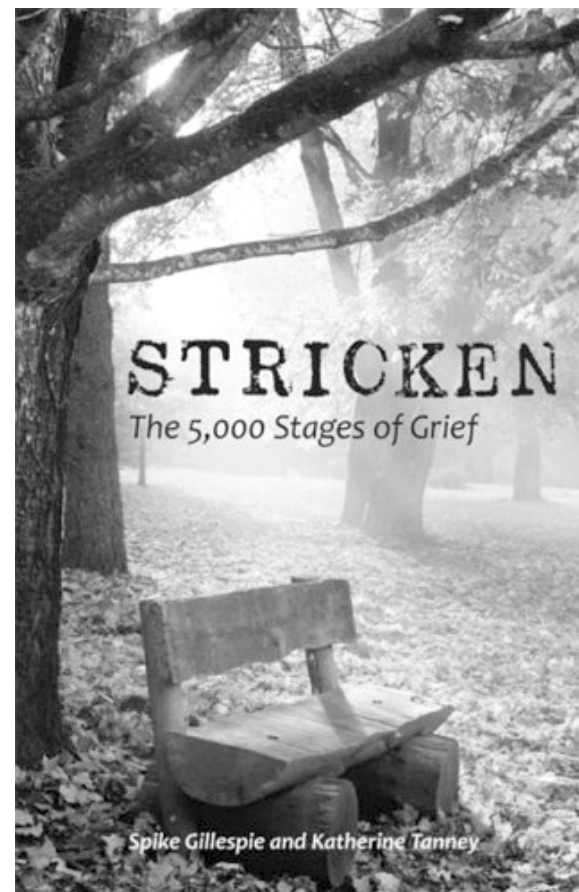
QUATORZAIN OF THE ISSUE

- Dave, have you been to the pyramids?
- No, but I built one in my backyard.
- Where’s your motorcycle these days?
- I sold it to a monk.
- Aren’t you filthy about what happened?
- Nah, Allen, I just keep eating my herbs and breathing.

[the other eight lines have meandered somewhere else]

– Michael Fitzgerald-Clarke, “Primordial Quatorzain So Easygoing It Hurts”

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film listings



Che: Part One

D: Steven Soderbergh; with Benicio Del Toro, Demián Bichir, Santiago Cabrera, Jorge Perugorria, Édgar Ramírez, Víctor Rasuk, Armando Riesco, Catalina Sandino Moreno. (R, 129 min., subtitled)

Few filmmakers are as omnivorous as Steven Soderbergh. From early indie classics such as *sex, lies and videotape* to his more recent star-saturated blockbusters, Soderbergh has remained

one of our most challenging artists by refusing to let himself get boxed in by expectations, whether they're his, ours, or Hollywood's. Just look at the man's résumé. Who else would go from a heady epic about American drug policy (*Traffic*) to a remake of a Rat Pack lark (*Ocean's Eleven*) to a throwaway satire of Hollywood (*Full Frontal*) to an update of a Tarkovsky sci-fi bummer (*Solaris*), all within the span of two years – and then top them all with a nearly five-hour (with intermission), shot-in-Spanish, neorealist meditation on the life of a long-dead South American revolutionary? Soderbergh's legacy is his aesthetic daring, and his latest – massive and imperfect as it is – just might be his most daring work to date. The first half of his epic about Ernesto “Che” Guevara (who also knew a thing or two about daring) focuses on the adventures in Cuba in the mid-1950s of the Argentine doctor-turned-revolutionary-turned-martyr-turned-god-turned-hipster-icon, when he and Fidel Castro led a ragtag guerrilla army to victory over dictator Fulgencio Batista (*Part Two*, about Che's less-successful efforts in Bolivia, will be released next week). And when I say, “focuses,” I mean it. In a sustained act of brazenness, Soderbergh ignores typical biopic trappings such as inspirational hagiography and political posturing to concentrate on the minutiae of life during those three years in the jungle: the slogs through heat and humidity; the slow peasant recruitments and disheartening defec-

tions; the training exercises and indoctrination; the long hours, days, weeks of boredom punctuated by sudden explosions of violence; and, of course, the increasingly bushy beards. The result is an epic in miniature, an anthropologist's look at the thousand and one things one does in service of grand ideology – some thrilling, most mundane: find food, bandage wounds, lob Molotov cocktails, smoke cigars, execute traitors, etc. This Che (Del Toro) doesn't give long speeches from atop hills or horses (Soderbergh saves those moments for his grainy, black-and-white footage of the leader speaking at the UN years later, when he was the scourge of Washington and the darling of Manhattan's liberal intelligentsia); he's too busy with logistics to channel his inner Henry V. And though lefty partisans might complain that Soderbergh's film doesn't show Che as the hero they say he was, and drama devotees will probably argue that it doesn't pay enough attention to the inner life of the man he must have been, in the end *Che* isn't really about a hero or a man; it's about the mechanics of guerrilla warfare, the day-to-day workings of an insurgency. Give Soderbergh his due: It takes a lot of guts to give your audience a case study when they've been crying out for *Spartacus* for 40 years. (*Che: Part Two opens next week on Jan. 30. See “Becoming Che,” p.47, for an interview with Del Toro.*) – Josh Rosenblatt
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Dobie

new reviews

CHANDNI CHOWK TO CHINA

D: Nikhil Advani; with Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukone, Mithun Chakraborty, Ranvir Shorey, Gordon Liu. (PG-13, 154 min., subtitled)

Anyone whose familiarity with Bollywood cinema extends no further than the closing dance number in *Slumdog Millionaire* is almost certain to have one of two possible reactions to this, the first “real” Bollywood film to be co-produced and released in the States by Warner Bros. Reaction No. 1 involves disbelief, confusion, a palpable sense that time has slowed to the pace of a geriatric snail while simultaneously elasticizing itself into *Roger Ramjet* velocities, and a nameless dread that one is just not *getting* it. Reaction No. 2 – and the one most likely to come from audiences who have had previous experience with the raw all-singing, all-dancing, often endearing schizophrenic chaos that is the hallmark of Bollywood films – should fall somewhere between drowsy animosity and a vaguely protective sense of Bollywood fan-based cinematic propriety. It's a mess (and it's over 2½ hours long), but aren't *all* Bollywood films? Short answer: No. (For proof, go check out *Om Shanti Om*, Farah Khan's devilishly imaginative 2007 homage to classic Bollywood conventions.) Leading man Kumar – think of early Jim Carrey on goofballs – plays Sidhu, a lowly potato peeler working in his father's food stand in the Delhi slums. Always on the lookout for a message from the gods, Sidhu discovers a sign in a tuber bearing the vague likeness of pachydermal Lord Ganesh. There are not enough pages in *The Austin Chronicle* to detail even the least of Sidhu's adventures; suffice it to say he's suckered into the belief that he's the reincarnation of an ancient Chinese swordsman. Thus, it's off to China to battle the evil despot Hojo (legendary Hong Kong action master Liu, of the *Kill Bill* films), with *Om Shanti Om*'s sex bomb Padukone onboard in a dual romantic role. What else to say but “hilarity ensues”? Not that much hilarity, actually, although if you're one of the 10-plus human beings who enjoyed Jackie Chan's ceaseless mugging in *City Hunter*, you'll probably also dig Kumar's gift for facial tics and the frequent outbursts of (admittedly well-choreographed) splashy musical numbers. Me, I just wanted to jam chopsticks into his irritatingly overactive eyes and let the feral dogs of Delhi have their way. As for the Pan-Asian angle, *Kung Fu Hustle* this is not, although there are some egregious similarities to that Stephen Chow film. *Chandni Chowk*'s everything-and-the-kitchen-stank approach to kung-fu comedies makes Chow's slapstick antics look like austere Robert Bresson by comparison. It's chopsocky vinaloo, pleasing on a platter but awfully difficult to swallow whole. – Marc Savlov
★ Tinseltown South

HOTEL FOR DOGS

D: Thor Freudenthal; with Emma Roberts, Jake T. Austin, Lisa Kudrow, Kevin Dillon, Don Cheadle, Johnny Simmons, Troy Gentile, Robinne Lee. (PG, 100 min.)

The conventional image we have of the kind of person who gets in trouble with the law over the sheltering of dozens of stray animals is one of a slightly batty spinster. But in *Hotel for Dogs*, the culprits are a couple of kids – orphans, no less – whose habit began with the covert maintenance of their family dog, Friday, whom they discreetly shuttle from one uncaring foster home to the next after “losing” their parents. Guess they don't want to lose the pooch, too. Currently, Andi (*Nancy Drew*'s Roberts) and Bruce (Austin of *Wizards of Waverly Place*) reside with the uncaring and untalented rock musicians Lois (Kudrow) and Carl (Dillon), who've taken in the kids only for the support checks that come with them. Cheadle plays the well-meaning social worker tasked with the near-impossible job of placing the brother and sister, who are unwilling to be separated. Apart from the portrait of the evil rock & rollers, *Hotel for Dogs* is a decent family film, sure to please animal-loving kids and their parents alike. Well-acted, the movie also looks good and is stocked with lots of goofy gadgetry. Bruce is a kid inventor who outfits their dog hotel with all sorts of mechanical contrivances worthy of *Pee-wee's Playhouse*, such as a vending machine that dispenses shoes for the dogs to chew and a multiple-seat dog potty that streamlines the bulk pooper-scooping process. Speaking of which, the movie has something all kids love: lots of poop and piddle comedy, all at the expense of the canine corps. *Hotel for Dogs* also deals fairly honestly with the sad situation in which orphans Andi and Bruce find themselves. It's delivered in kid-measured doses, for sure, and comes up with an unrealistically happy ending, so the movie should not frighten any kids fearful of parental desertion. *Hotel for Dogs* is a family-friendly operation. – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

INKHEART

D: Iain Softley; with Brendan Fraser, Eliza Bennett, Paul Bettany, Helen Mirren, Andy Serkis, Jim Broadbent, Sienna Guillory. (PG, 106 min.)

Consider the written word and its myriad powers: to educate; inspire; open doorways within the human mind that, often, forever alter the life of the reader; and, of course, entertain. German author Cornelia Funke's *Inkheart*, a fantasy adventure in the vein of Neil Gaiman's *Stardust* or C.S. Lewis' *Narnia* books, has been translated into 27 languages and found a comfy home in the young-adult section of libraries the world over. I haven't read it yet, but after watching Softley's rollicking, overstuffed but enormously entertaining adaptation, it's now at the top of my list. Both the book and film revolve around a family of humans – “Silvertongues” in the parlance of the film – who unknowingly have the power to bring to life the characters in the books they read aloud. This brings inadvertent disaster to the Folchart family when antiquarian book doctor Mo (Fraser) reads the titular novel *Inkheart* to his wife,



Inkheart

Resa (Guillory), and baby daughter, Meggie (Bennett). For every character that is read into our world, a human being is sucked into the world of the book, and thus Resa vanishes, replaced by the grinningly evil Capricorn (Peter Jackson-mainstay Serkis) and his thuggish, illiterate minions – among them Basta (Foreman, of *Layer Cake*), as well as a selfish but potentially heroic fire juggler by the name of Dustfinger (Bettany). Thus begins a quest by the remaining Folcharts to locate another copy of *Inkheart* in the hope that they will be able to read Resa out of it and back into reality while simultaneously dispatching the villains. Along the way, Helen Mirren, a unicorn, L. Frank Baum’s flying monkeys, and a minotaur arrive, vying for viewer attention; the ever-regal Mirren bests them all, which will come as no surprise to fans. Softley, who previously helmed the semicult hit *Hackers* back in the day and has since been known primarily for his music-video work, does an admirable job imbuing the world of *Inkheart* with just the right amount of fantastic detail, right down to Capricorn’s Escher-esque castle. Director of photography Roger Pratt makes the most of the sumptuous locations. *Inkheart* was shot in and around Liguria on the Italian Riviera, and it looks absolutely ravishing. But the most resonant and, frankly, wonderful aspect of the film is its unabashed love for books and the wonders to be found within. Sequences of Capricorn’s mishapen toadies (they were read into unfinished life by a stutterer) as they set fire to the Folchart’s beloved library of first editions elicit a true pang of horror and are mirrored by the protagonists’ unlabored love of the written word. *Inkheart*’s core message – that reading and writing books are noble pursuits and, indeed, sacred duties – may seem obvi-

ous to adults but is, let’s face it, growing ever less so to post-millennial youth. There’s nothing as fine in this world as the musty scent of an old book, well read and cherished, and *Inkheart* knows this to be true and tries, in its fantastic way, to pass that love along to future readers, writers, and lovers of the well-told tale. – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

MY BLOODY VALENTINE
3D: Patrick Lussier; with Jensen Ackles, Jaime King, Kerr Smith, Betsy Rue, Tom Atkins, Kevin Tighe, Megan Boone. (R, 101 min.)

If you’ve ever wanted to see a tiny motel owner smashed through her mandible and impaled on a ceiling by a miner’s pickax, this is the movie for you. It’s also the movie for you if you’re just dying to watch a sexy blonde’s head sliced in two – slooowly, oh so slooowly – by a razor-edged shovel or, alternately, if you find the idea of a smash-face baby Boston terrier bugging out his eyes in 3-D even remotely appealing. Did I mention the wealth of anatomically correct eyeball trauma? No? Well, this way-above-average remake of George Mihalka’s plodding 1981 splatter film has it in spades and asses. As one retro slasher fan to another, I kid you not: *My Bloody Valentine 3D* earns every bloody drop of its hard “R” rating and does so with an eye – heh, heh – toward resurrecting the moribund Eighties-style slash ‘n’ splash teen slaughter picture with precious little irony or *Scream*-esque, self-effacing commentary. It’s just guts, guts, guts (and

attendant blunt trauma) from the get-goo to the final shot, all of it presented in fully immersive, well-choreographed 3-D. It is, in short, the best date movie of the year thus far. The, um, “plot,” which deviates from the original in several substantial (but spoiler-ridden) ways, involves a mad miner working the seams of various teenage craniums while everyone else wonders who’s *really* behind that *trés* kinky gas-mask-and-overalls combo. *Hurt couture*, indeed. As a sop to splatter die-hards (a thoughtful, pleasing sop, mind you), Atkins (*Halloween III: Season of the Witch*, *The Fog*) turns up as a local sheriff and is rewarded with one of the most memorable scenes in the history of splatter movies. The rest of the young cast is essentially forgettable, fodder for the madman’s shaft or pole or ... whatever. (Not since *Flesh for Frankenstein*’s Udo Kier celebrated life by fucking death in the gallbladder has a 3-D film been so freakishly, fantastically phallic.) Beyond all those presumably intentional Freudian subtextuals – mine shafts, pickaxes, and gaping, bloody holes in extremely disturbing places – MBV

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openings & ratings

Che: Part One (R)

Inkheart (PG)

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (R)

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

● La bomba

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Master Pancake: Choose Your Own Master Pancake: Sun, 7:00pm
I Think We're Alone Now: Mon, 10:30pm; Tue, 7:00pm; Wed, 10:20pm
Terror Tuesday: Invasion U.S.A.: Tue, 10:45pm
Master Pancake: The Matrix: Fri-Sat, 7:40, 10:35
Pop Princess Sing-Along: Thu (1/29), 9:50pm
Weird Wednesday: Sinthia, the Devil's Doll: Wed, 12mid
Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 2009: Wed, 7:00pm
Dark Side of the Rainbow: The Wizard of Oz With Dark Side of the Moon: Fri-Sat, 12mid
The Wrestler: Fri, 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 9:35; Sat, 12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:35; Sun, 12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20; Mon, 4:15, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20; Tue-Wed, 4:15, 5:15, 7:45, 9:20; Thu (1/29), 4:15, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20

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Bedtime Stories: 12:25, 3:05
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: 3:00, 6:45, 10:40
***Defiance:** 12:05, 3:15, 7:05, 10:30
Gran Torino: 12:30, 3:40, 7:20, 10:20
AFF: Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang: Thu (1/29), 7:00pm
TV @ the Alamo: Lost: Wed, 7:00pm
My Bloody Valentine 3D (2-D): Fri-Tue, 7:40, 10:00; Wed, 10:00pm; Thu (1/29), 7:40pm
***Slumdog Millionaire:** 12:20, 3:30, 7:35, 10:45
***Underworld: Rise of the Lycans:** 12:15, 3:20, 6:50, 9:45
Valkyrie: 12:00pm
***The Wrestler:** 12:10, 3:10, 7:00, 10:10

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262.
Che: Part One: Fri-Sun, 12:10, 3:30, 7:05, 10:15; Mon, 3:30, 7:05, 10:15; Tue, 12:10, 7:05, 10:15; Wed-Thu (1/29), 3:30, 7:05, 10:15
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Fri-Sun, 3:05, 7:00; Mon, 7:00pm; Tue, 3:05pm; Wed-Thu (1/29), 7:00pm
***Defiance:** Fri-Sun, 12:15, 3:40, 7:30, 10:35; Mon-Tue, 3:40, 7:30, 10:35; Wed, 3:40, 10:35; Thu (1/29), 3:40, 7:30, 10:35
Doubt: Fri-Sun, 12:20pm; Mon, 4:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 4:10pm
Duck Soup Duck Feast: Wed, 7:00pm
Gran Torino: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00pm; Mon, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00; Tue, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00pm; Wed-Thu (1/29), 4:15, 7:10, 10:00
Let the Right One In: Fri-Wed, 10:30pm; Thu (1/29), 10:35pm
Revolutionary Road: Fri-Sun, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:35, 10:25pm; Mon, 4:30, 7:35, 10:25; Tue, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:35, 10:25pm; Wed-Thu (1/29), 4:30, 7:35, 10:25
AFS: Sisters: Tue, 7:00pm
Slumdog Millionaire: Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:45, 10:40pm; Mon, 4:40, 7:45, 10:40; Tue, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:45, 10:40pm; Wed-Thu (1/29), 4:40, 7:45, 10:40

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE
2700 W. Anderson, 459-7090. Tuesday matinee "Baby Day" shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years old.
Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy Quote-Along: Thu (1/29), 10:00pm
TV @ the Alamo: Battlestar Galactica: Fri, 12mid
TV @ the Alamo: Gossip Girl: Mon, 7:15pm
Gran Torino: Fri-Sun, 1:10, 4:15, 7:25, 10:20; Mon, 4:15, 7:25, 10:20; Tue, 1:10, 4:15, 7:25, 10:20; Wed-Thu (1/29), 4:15, 7:25, 10:20
TV @ the Alamo: Lost: Wed, 9:30pm
Marley & Me: Fri-Sun, 12:45, 3:45, 7:00; Mon, 3:45, 10:00; Tue, 12:45, 3:45; Wed-Thu (1/29), 3:45, 7:00
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 2009: Tue, 10:00pm
***Timecrisis:** Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 1:50, 4:25, 7:10, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 4:25, 7:10, 9:45
The Wrestler: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 10:00, 10:05pm; Mon, 4:20, 7:20, 10:05; Tue, 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 10:05; Wed-Thu (1/29), 4:20, 7:20, 10:05

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS
9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742.
Discounts daily before 6pm, all day Wednesdays.
Austin Jewish Film Festival: Sat-Thu (1/29)
Doubt: Fri, 11:30am, 11:50am, 4:50, 7:50, 10:25pm
Gran Torino (1/29): 11:50am, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:25pm
Frost/Nixon: Fri, 12:30, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00; Sat-Thu (1/29), 12:40, 4:00, 6:50, 9:50
Milk: Fri, 12:10, 3:10, 7:10, 10:05; Sat-Thu (1/29), 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
Rachel Getting Married: Fri, 4:10, 10:10; Sat-Thu (1/29), 11:30am, 2:05pm
The Reader: Fri, 12:00, 3:30, 6:40, 9:35; Sat-Thu (1/29), 12:10, 3:00, 6:30, 9:40
Revolutionary Road: Fri, 12:20, 3:20, 6:50, 9:40; Sat-Thu (1/29), 12:50, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00
Slumdog Millionaire: Fri, 11:50am, 12:40, 2:40, 6:30, 9:30pm; Sat-Thu (1/29), 12:30, 3:20, 6:40, 9:45
The Wrestler: 11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek Square mall, MoPac & Highway 360, 888/AMC-4FUN. Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays. Call theatre for showtimes for Monday, Jan. 26, through Thursday, Jan. 29.
Bride Wars: Fri-Sun, 12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 7:50, 10:25
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Fri-Sun, 10:10am, 1:35, 5:00, 8:30pm
Defiance: Fri-Sat, 10:05am, 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05pm; Sun, 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05
Frost/Nixon: Fri-Sun, 10:50am, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 10:00pm
Gran Torino: Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20pm
Hotel for Dogs (closed captioned): Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 9:55pm
Inkheart: Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 2:00, 4:35, 7:15, 9:45pm
Notorious: Fri-Sat, 11:10am, 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10pm; Sun, 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10
Paul Blart: Mall Cop: Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15pm
Revolutionary Road: Fri-Sun, 10:40am, 1:25, 4:15, 7:45, 10:30pm
Slumdog Millionaire: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15pm
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans: Fri-Sun, 10:15am, 12:35, 3:10, 5:30, 8:30, 10:50pm

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK 1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO.
Bedtime Stories: Fri-Sat, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50; Sun, 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:30, 5:10, 7:50
Bride Wars: Fri, 2:40, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 12:20, 2:40, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:40, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Fri, 4:00pm; Sat-Sun, 12:30, 4:00; Mon-Thu (1/29), 4:00pm
***Defiance:** Fri, 3:20, 6:40, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 3:20, 6:40, 9:45; Mon-Thu (1/29), 3:20, 6:40, 9:45
Gran Torino: Fri, 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35
***Hotel for Dogs:** Fri, 1:40, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 1:40, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 1:40, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40
***Inkheart:** Fri, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:05
Marley & Me: Fri, 3:30, 6:20, 9:00; Sat-Sun, 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:00; Mon-Thu (1/29), 3:30, 6:20, 9:00
***My Bloody Valentine 3D (2-D):** 7:35, 10:20
Metropolitan Opera: Orfeo ed Euridice: Sat, 12:00pm
***Paul Blart: Mall Cop:** Fri, 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
***Slumdog Millionaire:** 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:30
The Unborn: Fri, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:10; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:10
***Underworld: Rise of the Lycans:** Fri, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20
Valkyrie: 10:15pm

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14 12812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO.
Bedtime Stories: Fri-Sun, 11:40am, 2:20, 5:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:20, 5:15
Bride Wars: Fri-Sun, 12:00, 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 11:29), 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Fri-Sun, 11:55am, 6:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 6:20pm
***Defiance:** Fri-Sun, 12:10, 3:20, 6:30, 9:40; Mon, 7:00pm; Tue, 3:20, 6:30, 9:40
***Frost/Nixon:** Fri-Sun, 12:40, 3:45, 7:10, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:29), 3:45, 7:10, 10:15
Gran Torino: Fri-Sun, 12:55, 3:55, 7:00, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 11:29), 3:55, 7:00, 10:05
***Hotel for Dogs:** Fri-Sun, 11:35am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:10, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50
***Inkheart:** Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:15, 5:10, 8:00, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:15, 5:10, 8:00, 10:35
***Last Chance Harvey:** Fri-Sun, 11:50am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00
Marley & Me: 3:30, 10:20
***My Bloody Valentine 3D (2-D):** 7:45, 10:35
***Notorious:** Fri-Sun, 12:50, 3:40, 6:55, 10:10; Mon-Thu (1/29), 3:40, 6:55, 10:10
Metropolitan Opera: Orfeo ed Euridice: Sat, 12:00pm
***Paul Blart: Mall Cop:** Fri-Sun, 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25
***Revolutionary Road:** Fri-Sun, 12:05, 3:10, 6:35, 9:30; Mon-Thu (1/29), 3:10, 6:35, 9:30
***Slumdog Millionaire:** Fri-Sun, 12:30, 3:35, 6:45, 9:45; Mon-Thu (1/29), 3:35, 6:45, 9:45
***Underworld: Rise of the Lycans:** Fri, 11:45am, 2:30, 5:05, 7:35, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:30, 5:05, 7:35, 10:30

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK
2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm.
***Australia:** Fri, 4:00, 8:00; Sat-Sun, 12:30, 4:40, 8:00; Mon-Thu (1/29), 4:00, 8:00
Beverly Hills Chihuahua: Fri, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:30, 4:50, 7:10
***The Dark Knight:** Fri, 4:20, 8:15; Sat-Sun, 12:45, 4:20, 8:15; Mon-Thu (1/29), 4:20, 8:15
***Four Christmases:** Fri, 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 12:05, 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 9:55; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 9:55
High School Musical 3: Senior Year: 1:50pm
***Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa:** Fri, 2:15, 3:30, 4:40, 6:15, 7:20, 8:30, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 1:10, 2:15, 3:30, 4:40, 6:15, 7:20, 8:30, 9:45; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:15, 3:30, 4:40, 6:15, 7:20, 8:30, 9:45
***Quantum of Solace:** 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Role Models: 9:40pm
***Transporter 3:** Fri, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 12:20, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 10:00; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 10:00

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.
Bedtime Stories: Fri, 1:00, 3:30, 6:30; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 1:00, 3:30, 6:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 1:00, 3:30, 6:30
Bride Wars: Fri, 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Fri, 2:45, 6:20, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 2:45, 6:20, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:45, 6:20, 10:00
***Defiance:** Fri, 3:00, 6:10, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 3:00, 6:10, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 3:00, 6:10, 9:20
Gran Torino: Fri, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20
***Hotel for Dogs:** Fri, 12:40, 3:20, 6:50, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 9:50am, 12:40, 3:20, 6:50, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 12:40, 3:20, 6:50, 9:30
***Inkheart:** Fri, 12:50, 3:40, 7:10, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 12:50, 3:40, 7:10, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 12:50, 3:40, 7:10, 9:55
Marley & Me: Fri, 3:50, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 10:05am, 3:50, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 3:50, 9:45
***My Bloody Valentine 3D:** Fri, 2:20, 5:00, 8:00, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 8:00, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:20, 5:00, 8:00, 10:35
***Notorious:** Fri, 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
***Paul Blart: Mall Cop:** Fri, 1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 10:40am, 1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40
***Slumdog Millionaire:** Fri, 1:20, 4:10, 7:15, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 1:20, 4:10, 7:15, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 1:20, 4:10, 7:15, 10:05
Twilight: 12:45, 6:40
The Unborn: Fri, 2:30, 5:10, 8:05, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:30, 5:10, 8:05, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:30, 5:10, 8:05, 10:30
***Underworld: Rise of the Lycans:** Fri, 2:00, 4:50, 7:50, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:50, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 2:00, 4:50, 7:50, 10:15
Valkyrie: 9:10pm

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS 9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.
Bride Wars: 12:45, 3:15, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: 8:00pm
***Defiance:** Fri, 12:45, 4:05, 7:25, 10:35; Sat, 4:05, 7:25, 10:35; Sun-Thu (1/29), 12:45, 4:05, 7:25, 10:35
Gran Torino: 12:50, 3:50, 6:45, 9:50
***Hotel for Dogs:** 1:05, 3:45, 7:15, 9:45
***Inkheart:** 12:55, 3:35, 6:35, 9:20
***Last Chance Harvey:** 1:10, 3:40, 6:30, 9:25
Marley & Me: 1:35, 4:15
***My Bloody Valentine 3D:** 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10
***Notorious:** 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
Metropolitan Opera: Orfeo ed Euridice: Sat, 12:00pm
***Paul Blart: Mall Cop:** 1:40, 4:10, 6:50, 10:00
***Revolutionary Road:** 1:15, 4:45, 7:40, 10:25
***Slumdog Millionaire:** 1:00, 4:00, 7:05, 10:05
The Unborn: 1:25, 3:55, 6:40, 9:35
***Underworld: Rise of the Lycans:** 1:30, 4:50, 7:35, 10:15

DOBIE THEATRE 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FIRM.
Che: Part One: Fri, 4:10, 6:50, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:50; Mon-Thu (1/29), 6:50, 9:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Fri, 6:45pm; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 6:45; Mon-Thu (1/29), 6:45pm
Let the Right One In: Fri-Sun, 4:20, 10:00; Mon-Thu (1/29), 10:00pm
Rachel Getting Married: Fri, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 2:15, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30; Mon-Thu (1/29), 7:10, 9:30
Synechdoche, New York: Fri, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 1:50, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40; Mon-Thu (1/29), 7:00, 9:40

GALAXY HIGHLAND 100 North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305. No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Friday and Saturday after 7pm without an adult.
Bride Wars: Fri-Sat, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40, 11:45; Sun-Thu (1/29), 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
***Frost/Nixon:** Fri-Sat, 1:55, 4:50, 7:00, 9:35, 11:55; Sun-Thu (1/29), 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35
Gran Torino: Fri, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40, 11:55; Sat-Thu (1/29), 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
Hotel for Dogs: Fri-Sat, 12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35, 11:50; Sun-Thu (1/29), 12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35
Inkheart: Fri-Sat, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40, 11:50; Sun-Thu (1/29), 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
My Bloody Valentine 3D: Fri-Sat, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 12mid; Sun-Thu (1/29), 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
Notorious: Fri, 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10, 12mid; Sat-Thu (1/29), 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10
Paul Blart: Mall Cop: Fri, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20, 11:40; Mon-Thu (1/29), 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20
The Unborn: Fri-Sat, 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30; Sun-Thu (1/29), 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans: Fri-Sat, 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10, 11:35; Sun-Thu (1/29), 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10

GATEWAY THEATRE 9700 Stonelake, between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 X3808. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium.
Bedtime Stories: 11:40am, 2:05, 4:25pm
Bolt: 11:35am
Bride Wars: Fri-Sun, 12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:30, 9:55; Tue, 12:10, 4:45, 7:30; Wed, 2:30, 4:45, 9:55; Thu (1/29), 12:10, 4:45, 7:30
Brave New Girl (open captioned): Tue, 2:30, 9:55; Wed, 12:10, 7:30; Thu (1/29), 2:30, 9:55
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: 11:45am, 3:10, 6:35, 10:00pm
Defiance: 1:00, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
Gran Torino: 12:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 5:20, 7:05, 8:00, 9:45, 10:40
Hotel for Dogs: 11:50am, 2:15, 4:35, 7:00, 9:30pm
Inkheart: 11:30am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50pm
Last Chance Harvey: 12:05, 2:25, 5:05, 7:35, 10:25
Marley & Me: 11:20am, 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05pm
***My Bloody Valentine 3D:** 12:20, 3:00, 5:30, 7:50, 10:20
Notorious: 11:25am, 2:10, 4:55, 7:45, 10:30pm
Paul Blart: Mall Cop: 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:10, 9:40
The Unborn: Fri, 3:05, 5:25, 8:05, 10:45; Sat, 12:50, 5:25, 8:05, 10:45; Sun, 3:05, 5:25, 8:05, 10:45
Tue-Thu (1/29): 3:05, 5:25, 8:05, 10:45
The Unborn (open captioned): Fri, 12:50pm; Sat, 3:05pm; Sun, 12:50, 10:45; Mon, 12:50, 8:05
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans: 12:40, 12:50, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
Valkyrie: 11:55am, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35pm

IMAX THEATRE Texas State History Museum, 1800 N. Congress, 936-IMAX.
All Access: Front Row, Backstage. Live! Fri, 5:00pm; Sat-Sun, 3:00, 5:00; Mon-Thu (1/29), 6:00pm
Beowulf: The IMAX Experience: Fri-Sat, 9:15pm
The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience: Fri-Sun, 6:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 7:30pm
Grand Canyon Adventure 3D-D: River at Risk: Fri, 12:00, 3:00; Sat, 3:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 12:00, 3:00
Texas: The Big Picture: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 1:00pm; Sun, 1:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 10:00am, 1:00, 3:00pm
Wild Ocean 3D: Fri, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:00pm; Sat, 11:00am, 2:00pm; Sun, 2:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/29), 11:00am, 2:00, 4:00pm

LAKELINE STARPORT Lakeline Mall at Highway 183 and RR 620, 335-4793. Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesday.

Bedtime Stories: 11:45am, 2:15, 4:40, 7:00, 9:35pm
Bride Wars: 12:10, 2:25, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40
Gran Torino: 12:30, 3:10, 6:40, 9:45
Hotel for Dogs: 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Inkheart: 11:50am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50pm
My Bloody Valentine 3D (2-D):</

first runs

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

BEDTIME STORIES D: Adam Shankman; with Adam Sandler, Keri Russell, Guy Pearce, Russell Brand, Lucy Lawless, Courteney Cox. (PG, 99 min.)

Adam Sandler has finally found his audience: 3-year-olds. It makes perfect sense, really. From setting bags of dog feces on fire in *Billy Madison* to urinating on buildings in *Big Daddy* to ogling bouncing breasts in *Click*, Sandler has always prided himself on being the poster boy for American male regression, so it was only a matter of time before he gave up the pretense of being an adult and just started making kids movies. In his latest, Sandler plays a goofy hotel handyman with a passion for the simpler things in life – gum balls, sports cars, laughing at little people – who is suddenly thrust into the world of adult responsibility. But unlike previous films in which Sandler's infantile irrepressibility played like an act of rebellion against the square world, in *Bedtime Stories*, the actor's childishness, when in such close contact with the childishness of real children, comes off merely weird, if not borderline mentally challenged. (12/26/2008) – Josh Rosenblatt

★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

BOLT D: Byron Howard, Chris Williams; with John Travolta, Miley Cyrus, Susie Essman, Mark Walton, Malcolm McDowell, James Lipton. (PG, 96 min.)

Bolt, an animated American White Shepherd (voiced by Travolta), has been born and raised on a

film studio lot and truly believes himself to possess those "radical canine enhancements" that his character displays every week on TV. Bolt is completely oblivious of his status as a flesh-and-blood nipper, so when he ends up accidentally shipped from his closed Hollywood environs to "the real world," aka New York City, the stage is set not only for a classic Disney road trip but also for a series of alternately comic and wistful revelations regarding the true nature of heroism, friendship, and love. The writing team of Dan Fogelman (*Cars*) and co-director Williams (*Mulan*) has concocted one of the most witty and often hilarious Disney outings in years. Add to that the beautifully nuanced vocal work from all involved, plus some of the most deliciously inspired animation to come out of Disney in years, and the end result is, to quote Rhino, awwwesome. (11/21/2008) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Gateway, Metropolitan

BRIDE WARS D: Gary Winick; with Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway, Candice Bergen, Kristen Johnston. (PG, 87 min.)

One wonders what could have possibly recommended the mean-spirited, laughless *Bride Wars* to Hathaway. Surely not Hudson, whose effect on critics (and increasingly the box office) is not unlike that of a roach motel on its six-legged guests. Actually, I suppose some credit should be given to Hudson for playing against type here; putting aside her usual squishy bunny-rabbit roles, she plays the alpha dog Liv, a Manhattan lawyer who has subtly bullied her best friend, Emma (Hathaway), for years. Both women have harbored since childhood the desire to marry at the Plaza Hotel in June, which is exactly the plan, until a scheduling snafu places their two weddings on the same day. The situation quickly escalates from awkward fumbling to

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Sun. - Thu. 2:10 4:40 7:10 9:40	
BRIDE WARS (PG) Fri. & Sat. 1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40 11:45	
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Austin Jewish Film Festival The seventh annual festival offers an international selection of 28 films from 12 countries, many of which will screen with the directors in attendance. For more on the festival, see “Secular Cinema in the Holy Land,” p.48, and for a complete schedule and film descriptions, see www.austinjff.org or ad on facing page. @Arbor, Garrison 102 (on the UT campus), Texas Hillel, City Lights Theatre (Georgetown), Saturday-Friday (1/30).



Love Come Lately

passive-aggressiveness, and then on to all-out guerilla tactics. If you've seen the trailer, you already know the wages of war – the blue-hair sabotage, the tanning-salon incident, the wedding-aisle throwdown. (01/16/2009) – *Kimberley Jones*

♣ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON

D: David Fincher; with Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett, Julia Ormond, Taraji P. Henson, Tilda Swinton, Jason Fletmyng, Jared Harris. (PG-13, 159 min.)

It's quite a feat, really, to have stretched F. Scott Fitzgerald's slender, unsentimental curio into a three-hour-long – very long – motion picture about Benjamin (Pitt), who is born with the arthritic creak of an old man and proceeds to age in reverse. Everything that was sharp in the original text has been rounded and buffed; Fitzgerald's cynical eye toward humans' fleeting attractions, and attractiveness, has been junked for a love story – you know the kind – that spans decades of rising hemlines and missed opportunities. Screenwriter Eric Roth transposes the action from antebellum Baltimore to Armistice Day in New Orleans (which accommodates an ineffective framing story involving Hurricane Katrina). The problem with this kind of episodic (un)coming-of-age tale – as with Roth's previous Oscar bait, *Forrest Gump* – is that too often, transitions, major life decisions, feel unmotivated. Fincher is a master craftsman, to be sure, but I didn't buy this story for a second. (12/26/2008) – *Kimberley Jones*

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE DARK KNIGHT

D: Christopher Nolan; with Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Aaron Eckhart, Gary Oldman, Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman, Cillian Murphy, Eric Roberts, Monique Curnen, Chin Han. (PG-13, 152 min.)

Sacrifices must be made, because that's what heroes do. Or so goes the nihilistic logic behind *The Dark Knight*, a grim little parable on the wages of sin and the high cost of redemption. It's impossible to view Nolan's extravagantly dour film through anything but the prism of Ledger's death. His Joker is the sort of convoluted, densely layered characterization that gets nominated for awards come Oscar time. It's a pity, then, that when taken as a whole, this 2½-hour film is such a stuffy downer. It's jam-packed with flawlessly designed set-pieces and skulduggery, sure, but it's also shrouded in grim portent, overlaid with a filigree of despair, and, for good measure, covered in a patina of dire consequence. In short, it's a *Batman* for the new age of anxiety. There's something intangible missing from this *Dark Knight*. For all its thrum and thunder, Nolan's film feels chilly and ill at ease. (07/18/2008) – *Marc Savlov*

★★★ Movies 8

DEFIANCE

D: Edward Zwick; with Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber, Jamie Bell, Alexa Davalos, Allan Corduner, Mark Feuerstein, Tomas Arana, Jodhi May. (R, 137 min.)

Defiance is the true story of the Bielski family, three Jewish brothers who, in 1941, escaped into the forest of their native Belarus to elude capture by

the Nazis, set up a small ad hoc village, and ended up saving more than 1,200 Jewish lives through daring rescue raids and armed resistance. The story, in other words, is pure Hollywood gold, full of opportunities for stirring speeches, ethical quandaries, lessons about tolerance and humanity, and violence against Nazis. Zwick (*Glory*, *Blood Diamond*) has spent his entire career struggling to find the balance between opposing impulses – the sentimentalist's desire for emotional-historical heft and the artist's fascination with conflicted humanity – a struggle that's all over *Defiance*. Standing in for the first impulse is composer James Newton Howard, who never met a tender moment he didn't want to choke to death, but representing the second, thankfully, are Craig and Schreiber, who are more interested in psychological ambivalence than unblemished heroism. (01/16/2009) – *Josh Rosenblatt*

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

DOUBT

D: John Patrick Shanley; with Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams, Viola Davis, Joseph Foster II. (PG-13, 104 min.)

Shanley adapted his Pulitzer- and Tony Award-winning play, *Doubt*, for the movies and also chose to direct the film. The cast he gathered is peerless, but unfortunately, the actors don't all behave as though they're performing in the same movie. A collection of acting styles, from the broad to the contained and the exacting to the unrestrained, creates an unevenness of tone and interpretation. Streep plays Sister Aloysius, the unwavering principal of the St. Nicholas school, into whose dominion comes the new young priest, Father Flynn (Hoffman). The ensuing struggle between the two over morality and power carries with it all the baggage of Catholic tradition and hierarchy as well as the period's secular strife between men and women. It's a cerebral tug-of-war for the viewer, a struggle that's made only more opaque with the film's closing line of dialogue. Meanwhile, storms suddenly stir up outside, and lightbulbs repeatedly burst in Shanley's effort to cinematically underline the pent-up emotions within. (12/26/2008) – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor

FROST/NIXON

D: Ron Howard; with Frank Langella, Michael Sheen, Sam Rockwell, Oliver Platt, Kevin Bacon, Matthew Macfadyen, Rebecca Hall. (R, 122 min.)

Frost/Nixon is a behind-the-scenes account of the momentous interviews with Richard Nixon conducted by British TV personality David Frost in 1977, three years after the former president had resigned from office in disgrace. The film is adapted for the screen by Peter Morgan from his play and stars the play's two leads: Langella (who also won a Tony for this role) as Nixon and Sheen as Frost. Almost by definition, *Frost/Nixon* is a two-handed work, a psychological boxing match between the two protagonists, and Langella and Sheen, the actors, are evenly matched. Each man also counts a few coaches and assistants in his corner, making the taped interviews seem all the more like a prizefight. *Frost/Nixon*, like Morgan's *The Queen*, is at its best when it's examining the fragile intersection of media and politics. On its own, however, I'm not sure that this story of Frost's chutzpah and Nixon's intractability is inherently that gripping. (12/26/2008) – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★★ Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, Highland, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

Sisters

Sisters (1973) D: Brian De Palma; with Margot Kidder, Jennifer Salt, Charles Durning, William Finley. (R, 93 min.) **Austin Film Society: First Blood – The Early Films of Brian De Palma.** De Palma's first real break-out film also showcases the filmmaker as Hitchcock's heir apparent. In addition to a score by Bernard Herrmann, the mystery thriller's plot essentials include separated Siamese twins, nuns, and a crime inadvertently witnessed. @Alamo Drafthouse South, Tuesday, 7pm; \$4, AFS members free; reserve tickets online at www.austinfilm.org.



GRAN TORINO

D: Clint Eastwood; with Clint Eastwood, Bee Vang, Ahney Her, Christopher Carley, John Carroll Lynch. (R, 116 min.)

Nick Schenk's *Gran Torino* screenplay wasn't written with Eastwood in mind as the film's star and director, but you'd never guess that was the case, so comfortably does the film fit the lauded filmmaker and icon's public persona and body of work. Eastwood's performance as Walt Kowalski perfectly caps his long career as an actor. As director, Eastwood's usual economical yet efficacious style marks the film, but it is his performance that is really the heart of this show. Still lithe and taut in his movement, Eastwood nevertheless allows his aging body to sag in places and fail him on occasion. Eastwood also finds the humorous aspects of the character – heard often in the instinctive growl the character directs toward all annoyances, be they his own money-grubbing family members, gang-bangers, or the neighborhood priest. Eastwood plans to go on making more movies, but it's doubtful any will be as satisfying a career culmination as *Gran Torino*. (01/09/2009) – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

LAST CHANCE HARVEY

D: Joel Hopkins; with Dustin Hoffman, Emma Thompson, Eileen Atkins, Kathy Baker, Liane Balaban, James Brolin, Richard Schiff. (PG-13, 99 min.)

There's about a 20-year age difference between Harvey (Hoffman) and Kate (Thompson), and he's a Yank, and she's a Brit, but otherwise, they are solidly middle-aged characters who meet and enjoy each other's company over the course of a day and then mutually grab on to what seems to each like a last chance for love. With its thin plot and its title character an American abroad in London, *Last Chance Harvey* comes across as something like a *Before Sunrise* for the less-than-nubile set. Were that writer/director Hopkins' dialogue and visualization as scintillating as Richard Linklater's is in his *Sunrise/Sunset* romances. Of course, the combined acting brilliance of Hoffman and Thompson could elevate the hoariest of clichés and turn almost anything they touch golden – and that is most often the case with *Last Chance Harvey*. These two prove a pleasure to watch in tandem, and their work is complemented by an outstanding supporting cast. (01/16/2009) – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★ Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

LET THE RIGHT ONE IN

D: Tomas Alfredson; with Kåre Hedebrant, Lina Leandersson. (R, 114 min., subtitled)

Knives, fangs, and budding desire; corpses in copses and snowbound ire: Ah, young love. This multi-award-winning Swedish film could be summarized as a vampire tween romance, but that cheap and tawdry sum-up does zero justice to the magnificent emotional resonance of this gemlike bloodstone of a film. The film is a complex examination of what it means to be a young outsider, and its bracing honesty in these matters is on par with Gus Van Sant and Larry Clark. It's creepy in the same way that a youngster's first stirrings of adolescent desire are creepy – both to them and often more so to their elders – when strange attractors come into play and everything seems frighteningly freighted with the surreal, the mysterious, the forbidden. Oskar (Hedebrant), a blond wisp of a bullied, shy boy, and a strange young girl name Eli (Leandersson) are the

adolescent outsiders. Their story creates a beautiful horror film and, more important, a beautiful *film*. (11/14/2008) – *Marc Savlov*

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Dobie

MARLEY & ME

D: David Frankel; with Owen Wilson, Jennifer Aniston, Eric Dane, Kathleen Turner, Alan Arkin, Haley Bennett. (PG, 111 min.)

Be you a dog or cat person, you'll likely enjoy Frankel's adaptation of journalist John Grogan's best-selling account of life, love, deadlines, and death with the “world's worst dog,” a yellow Labrador retriever named Marley. Never mind the frisky CGI superheroics of *Bolt* or the teary mawkishness of *Old Yeller* – Marley is into extinction-level household devastation, scandalous fecal shenanigans, and the terrorization of Kathleen Turner, all of which sound like great fun and indeed are. Wilson, seemingly fully recovered from whatever personal demons were tormenting him last year, plays Grogan with his usual battered charm, and Aniston, as his wife, Jennifer, is, well, Jennifer Aniston. Ostensibly a story about a mad, bad, dangerous-to-walk dog, *Marley & Me* has far more to say about the bonds that make up the modern American family. And Marley, the dog from hell, (wouldn't you know it) turns out to be nothing shy of a gift from heaven. (12/26/2008) – *Marc Savlov*

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

MILK

D: Gus Van Sant; with Sean Penn, Emile Hirsch, Josh Brolin, Diego Luna, James Franco, Alison Pill, Víctor Garber, Denis O'Hare. (R, 127 min.)

Van Sant's very fine biopic restricts itself to the last decade of Harvey Milk's life, when the semi-closeted insurance man living in New York moved to San Francisco's Castro district and embarked upon a historic campaign (four, in fact) to become the first openly gay man elected to public office. Technically, *Milk* is a knockout, and the film is terrifically acted, top to bottom. Still, when the focus of the script (by first-timer Dustin Lance Black) turns almost exclusively to the Proposition 6 fight and Milk's last days, the film loses much of its loose-limbedness. *Milk* is a more conventionally satisfying picture than Van Sant's previous Aughties output, which consisted of aggressively experimental films that didn't always work but got under the skin something fierce. The deeply heartfelt *Milk* is more of a surface skim: a fairly standard biopic – if a very fine one, indeed – but never the transcendent work we hoped for. (12/05/2008) – *Kimberley Jones*

★★★★ Arbor

NOT EASILY BROKEN

D: Bill Duke; with Morris Chestnut, Taraji P. Henson, Maeve Quinlan, Kevin Hart, Wood Harris, Eddie Cibrian, Jenifer Lewis, Niecy Nash. (PG-13, 99 min.)

In its opening scene, *Not Easily Broken*, based on a novel by megachurch pastor T.D. Jakes, threatens to be a message film, with the overtly religious theme spoken by the minister at the wedding of Dave (Chestnut) and Clarice (Henson): God, says the clergyman, must be the third partner in a marriage. Struggling contractor Dave and high-end real estate agent Clarice's marriage grows increasingly troubled, which is demonstrated by Clarice's growing unpleasantness. With thin plotting and events pulled from everyday fare, the film feels like an acquaintance taking a little too long to tell you about the problems in his life. When the film gets past these tiresome scenes, it loosens up into something pleasant. Sweet humor permeates the camaraderie

between Dave and his buddies (Cibrian and Hart), and Clarice becomes human when gabbing with her friend Michelle (Nash). The mostly black cast rises above the script's clunky passages. (01/16/2009) — Theresa Everline
★ Metropolis, Millennium, Tinseltown North

NOTORIOUS D: George Tillman Jr.; with Jamal Woolard, Angela Bassett, Derek Luke, Anthony Mackie, Antonique Smith, Naturi Naughton, Kevin Phillips, Dennis L.A. White, Marc John Jefferies. (R, 123 min.)

In *Notorious*, the life of hip-hop artist Christopher Wallace, aka Notorious B.I.G. or Biggie Smalls, assumes the shape of the standard biopic formula. The well-known hallmarks of this rapper's life are all here: his attentive upbringing in

Brooklyn by his single mom, the lure of the streets and the fast cash of the drug trade, the stint in jail, the women, the fresh sound of his rhymes, the transformative hookup with producer Sean Combs (aka Puff Daddy, P. Diddy, et al.), and the friendship and falling out with West Coast hip-hop icon Tupac Shakur (who was murdered six months prior to Wallace). Director Tillman is unable to tease out much more nuance or shading from this highlight reel, whose events are already well-known to the public. Still, the performances are vibrant and capture a sense of the individuals behind them. As Wallace, Woolard proves an excellent study. (01/16/2009) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

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A.O. SCOTT

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9828 Great Hills Trail

SATURDAY JANUARY 24

7:00 pm SOMEONE TO RUN WITH

9:30 pm EMOTIONAL ARITHMETIC

SUNDAY JANUARY 25

12:00 pm NOODLE

2:30 pm PRAYING WITH LIOR

6:00 pm MAX MINSKY & ME

8:30 pm STRANGERS WITH MOOSH & DANCING ALFONSO

MONDAY JANUARY 26

12:00 pm STRANGERS WITH MOOSH & DANCING ALFONSO

4:30 pm NOODLE

7:00 pm OFFSIDE WITH WOMAN FROM THE BUBBLE

9:00 pm VILLA JASMIN

TUESDAY JANUARY 27

12:00 pm BAD FAITH

4:30 pm OFFSIDE WITH MUBAL & YOU NEVER KNOW - SHLOMO CARLEBACH

7:00 pm THE SECRETS

7:00 pm AVIVA MY LOVE

9:00 pm SOMETHING SWEET

9:30 pm DANGEROUS ACTS

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28

12:00 pm LOVE COMES LATELY

4:30 pm THE SECRETS

7:00 pm MY MEXICAN SHIVA

9:00 pm THE STRANGERS

THURSDAY JANUARY 29

12:00 pm BAGHDAD TWIST WITH PRAYING IN HER OWN VOICE

4:30 pm THE POWER OF GOOD

7:00 pm PRAISE HAT WITH CIRCUMCISE ME

9:00 pm THE YEAR MY PARENTS WENT ON VACATION

FRIDAY JANUARY 30

12:00 pm HILAKHEH WITH YOU NEVER

KNOW - SHLOMO CARLEBACH

SCHUSTERMAN CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES AT UT

(Shown at Garrison Hall 0.102)

MONDAY JANUARY 26

7:00 pm LOVE COMES LATELY

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28

7:00 pm SOMEONE TO RUN WITH

THURSDAY JANUARY 29

7:00 pm MY MEXICAN SHIVA

TEXAS HILLEL

2705 San Antonio St.

TUESDAY JANUARY 27

7:00 pm THE SECRETS

CITY LIGHTS

420 Wolf Ranch Parkway, Georgetown

TUESDAY JANUARY 27

4:00 pm STRANGERS WITH PRAYING WITH LIOR

THURSDAY JANUARY 29

4:00 pm OFFSIDE WITH THE YEAR MY PARENTS WENT ON VACATION



BAD FAITH



EMOTIONAL ARITHMETIC



LOVE COMES LATELY



MAX MINSKY AND ME



SOMEONE TO RUN WITH



THE YEAR MY PARENTS WENT ON VACATION



STRANGERS



THE SECRETS

For more information about films, festival badges and ticket sales please visit www.austinjff.org.

A Service Charge will be added to all online and credit card purchases.

West Side Story

West Side Story (1961) D: Robert Wise and Jerome Robbins; with Natalie Wood, Richard Beymer, George Chakiris, Rita Moreno, Russ Tamblyn. (NR, 151 min.) It's Sharks and Jets time when this timeless Leonard Bernstein musical with the Jerome Robbins kick-steps starts rolling. This Spanish Harlem *Romeo and Juliet* tale is one for the ages. @Paramount, Friday, 7:30pm; Saturday, 4, 7:30pm.



Double Indemnity

Double Indemnity (1944) D: Billy Wilder; with Fred MacMurray, Barbara Stanwyck, Edward G. Robinson. (NR, 106 min.) **Tough Guys and Feisty Femmes.** Wilder clocked another classic with this quintessential femme-fatale story about a pair of lovers who bump off the woman's husband for the insurance money. See www.cityofaustin.org/library for more info. (*) @Hampton Library, Monday, 6pm; free.



RACHEL GETTING MARRIED

D: Jonathan Demme; with Anne Hathaway, Rosemarie DeWitt, Bill Irwin, Mather Zickel, Debra Winger, Tunde Adebimpe, Anna Deavere Smith, Anisa George. (R, 113 min.)

Kym (Hathaway) is a recovering addict let out of rehab long enough to attend the wedding of her older sister, Rachel (DeWitt), to a musician named Sidney (Adebimpe, of TV on the Radio). It's sort of a boho creative's sweet dream of a wedding, filled with light and joy and artistic expression ... into which stomps Kym, the slouching, raccoon-eyed, self-described "nightmare." She uses the occasion of Rachel getting married to make amends, but even the seemingly good intention of that is a symptom of her self-absorption. Demme successfully returns to more intimate territory with this film and takes an unhurried, you-are-here approach with the camera. Hathaway is at her absolute best when bouncing off of the terrific Irwin (as her father, Paul) and DeWitt, the other two legs in the deeply damaged family unit. Supporting parts by Winger and Deavere Smith get shortchanged, although Demme has a large enough heart to give everyone at least a moment of spot-light. (10/31/2008) – Kimberley Jones
★★★★ Arbor, Dobie

THE READER

D: Stephen Daldry; with Ralph Fiennes, Kate Winslet, David Kross, Bruno Ganz, Lena Olin. (R, 123 min.)

The question at the heart of *The Reader* is what have we learned (and forgotten) from history's bloody backwash? Luckily for *The Reader*, the angelic Ganz, as a sage professor of law, is on hand to nudge the question of wartime culpability to the fore. But that's not what's most remarkable about *The Reader*, it's just what's most intellectually chewy. The real red meat of Daldry's film is the May-December romance between a weary-looking, sexually rapacious streetcar ticket-taker (Winslet, shockingly good throughout) in postwar Berlin and the sickly young schoolboy (an enthusiastic, excellent Kross) on whom she initially takes pity and then seduces, ravenously and to his great delight. One day she's gone, with no explanation, and the boy grows into a promising young law student and, later, into a sorrowful-seeming Ralph Fiennes. Daldry, working from a superior script by David Hare, has crafted a film about guilt, love, and history and how the three skeins create human beings or, alternately, human monsters. (12/26/2008) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Arbor

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD

D: Sam Mendes; with Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio, Kathy Bates, Michael Shannon, Kathryn Hahn, David Harbour, Dylan Baker, Zoe Kazan, Richard Easton. (R, 119 min.)

I suppose you could call *Revolutionary Road* a movie about the killing effects of the suburbs – something director Mendes previously explored in his debut film, *American Beauty* – but that would be a facile reduction of a film that aims, far more cuttingly, to sandblast the myth of "specialness" – that very American idea that we are all destined for greatness. A seductive opening scene introduces Frank (DiCaprio) and April (Winslet), before they've married and moved to Revolutionary Road. The film then cuts to a half-decade later: The Wheelers are expert brawlers by now, both of them chafing at the expectations of their gender roles. There's an airlessness to Mendes' picture that doesn't leave much room for error. One slight bobble from the (admittedly very good) leads, and the illusion crumbles. Not a bobble in sight, though, from bit player Shannon, who steals the whole picture in two short, shattering scenes. (01/09/2009) – Kimberley Jones
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

SEVEN POUNDS

D: Gabriele Muccino; with Will Smith, Rosario Dawson, Woody Harrelson, Michael Ealy, Barry Pepper, Elpidia Carrillo, Robinne Lee, Joe Nunez. (PG-13, 120 min.)

Smith plays Ben Thomas, a once-successful engineer who now leads a desperate life of self-loathing and regret. Seeking out the most effective and productive means of self-flagellation, he devises an elaborate scheme of charity/contrition designed to save strangers' lives through the abandonment of his own. Director Muccino (reuniting with his *HappyNess* star) and writer Grant Nieporte have gone through pains to keep viewers in a state of suspended half-confusion, but it is safe to reveal that Ben's work involves helping damaged souls, in particular a beautiful young woman (Dawson) who has a congenital heart defect but enough heart to nudge Ben toward something resembling absolution. Throughout the film, Smith proves himself adept in the art of conflicted melancholy – always speaking at the wrong volume, rarely looking people in the eye, and full of forced smiles – and Muccino responds to his star's seriousness with enough darkness and moral ambivalence to keep the story from toppling into heartwarming, pay-it-forward mawkishness. (12/19/2008) – Josh Rosenblatt
★★★★ Metropolitan

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE

D: Danny Boyle, Loveleen Tandan; with Dev Patel, Anil Kapoor, Freida Pinto, Madhur Mittal, Irrfan Khan, Ankur Vikal. (R, 120 min.)

Slumdog Millionaire is a mad, thrilling, and perversely luminous film. It may be drenched in the saffron and violet palettes of its Mumbai setting, but it plays like a classic Hollywood rags-to-riches love story, albeit one with Bollywood roots and a fully globalized desire to survive, succeed, live, and love within the teeming megalopolis formerly known as Bombay. It's a natural fit for Boyle and director of photography Anthony Dod Mantle. Mumbai is nothing if not giddy chaos incarnate. Patel, in his feature debut, is the "slumdog" of the title, a reed-thin young striver named Jamal Malik. Jamal has managed to survive the crushing poverty and daily tragedies of his birthplace and has somehow landed himself on the Hindi version of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*?. It's a doozy of a story that piles on the traditional Holly- and Bollywood melodrama but never shies away or strays too far from the Ganges and the ghetto. (12/12/2008) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

SYNECDOCHE, NEW YORK

D: Charlie Kaufman; with Philip Seymour Hoffman, Samantha Morton, Catherine Keener, Michelle Williams, Emily Watson, Dianne Wiest, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Hope Davis, Tom Noonan. (R, 124 min.)

Screenwriter Kaufman's first venture as a director is audacious, ambitious, amazing. It's also

intricate, self-referencing, and all-encompassing. Kaufman creates an alternate reality, a reality as elaborate and purposeful as any fantasy film yet as grounded, detailed, and recognizable as life as we know it to be. *Synecdoche, New York* is anchored by the always remarkable Hoffman as theatre director Caden Cotard, whose marriage, relationships, home, and health are all seemingly crumbling. Cotard wants to create a great work of art, something that will outlast him and quell his anxieties about separation, inadequacy, decay, and mortality. Time is both concentrated and elongated in the movie; continuity becomes confused; chronology goes haywire, caught between stasis and anti-stasis. All the while, Cotard is trapped by disappointment and an inability to move beyond this rehearsal of his life. The absurdity grows, and so does the film's humor. It is, ultimately, a modern masterpiece. (11/14/2008) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★★ Dobie

THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX

D: Sam Fell, Rob Stevenhagen; with the voices of Matthew Broderick, Dustin Hoffman, Emma Watson, Tracey Ullman, Sigourney Weaver, Kevin Kline, William H. Macy, Stanley Tucci, Ciarán Hinds, Robbie Coltrane, Tony Hale, Frances Conroy, Frank Langella, Richard Jenkins, Christopher Lloyd, Bronson Pinchot. (G, 93 min.)

The lesson learned from *The Tale of Despereaux* is that an overabundance of vocal talent does not a good cartoon make. Adapted for the screen by *Pleasantville* and *Seabiscuit* director Gary Ross from the 2004 Newberry Medal-winning novel by Kate DiCamillo, *The Tale of Despereaux* adds up to much less than the sum of its parts. The animation looks decent enough, but the narrative is a choppy story that bobs among human characters in the human kingdom of Dor, where soup seems to be its inhabitants' main preoccupation, and the rodent residents of the separate municipalities of Mouseworld and Ratworld. The movie becomes so intent on introducing characters and revealing the dark chambers of the Ratworld dungeon (enough so that the G rating should be called into question) that it loses many of the book's messages about individuality and valor. Most crippling is the narration by Weaver, which ladles out platitudes by the heaping spoonful. (12/19/2008) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★ Lakeline, Tinseltown South

TIMECRIMES

D: Nacho Vigalondo; with Vigalondo, Karra Elejalde, Candela Fernández, Bárbara Goenaga, Juan Inciarte. (R, 89 min., subtitled)

Timecrimes is a tremendously entertaining bit of Kafka that whirlpools down into *The Twilight Zone*. Spanish director Vigalondo's first feature film is an enigmatic, interlocked series of increasingly inevitable torments for its protagonist and one helluva blast to watch. Predicated on the same sort of trippy, circular logic beloved by conspiracy theorists and collegiate stoners alike, it's a time-travel head-trip of a film, and it succeeds in messing with your mind almost as much as it does with those of its own characters. Fair warning, hippie: Do not drop acid



before seeing this film. *Timecrimes* has nabbed a spate of awards, among them the Next Wave award at 2007's Fantastic Fest. It's easy to see why: Vigalondo's triple command of surreal compositions, nerve-raping suspense, and the ability to draw out scarily emotional performances from a cast that includes, in a major role, himself is unassailable. (01/16/2009) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village

TWILIGHT

D: Catherine Hardwicke; with Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Billy Burke, Peter Facinelli, Elizabeth Reaser, Cam Gigandet, Nikki Reed. (PG-13, 120 min.)

I've had mosquito bites that were more passionate than this undead, unrequited, and altogether unfun pseudo-romantic riff on *Romeo and Juliet*. Based on the hideously readable (or so my dark beloved tells me) series of "don't call them young adult" novels by Stephenie Meyer, *Twilight* is the first in what promises to be a lengthy cinematic franchise featuring sexy vampire boys who just say, "No, I don't drink ... you." When broody-but-cool teen Bella Swan (Stewart) moves to the permanently overcast town of Forks, Wash., she becomes romantically involved with pallid school hunk Edward Cullen (Pattinson), who is one-sixth of a local vampire "family" which has sworn off the human populace in favor of other sources of the crimson. Bella and Edward's courtship is played out with plenty of dreamy, slo-mo nuance, but Pattinson's cheekbones keep getting in the way of the story, and the third-act arrival of a trio of "bad" vampires appears out of nowhere and goes nowhere, too. (11/28/2008) – Marc Savlov
★ CM Round Rock, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

THE UNBORN

D: David S. Goyer; with Odette Yustman, Gary Oldman, Cam Gigandet, Idris Elba, Meagan Good, Jane Alexander, Atticus Shaffer, James Remar, Carla Gugino. (PG-13, 88 min.)

Nearly all the dread in this otherwise dreadfully dull film stems from visual effects – some CGI but some better ones, including something ghastly with way too many teeth that comes courtesy of the always-alarming effects creator Greg Nicotero. Goyer, who's better liked for his screenplays (*Batman Begins*, *Blade II*) than his directorial forays (*Blade: Trinity*, *The Invisible*), has the seed of a great horror film lodged somewhere in here, but it never makes it past the fetal stage. *The Unborn* ends with Oldman, as a rabbi, performing an exorcism of such stupefying ridiculousness that it qualifies, two weeks into the new year, as the best extended comedy bit of 2009. Prior to this conclusion, the film tells the story of Yustman's Casey Beldon, a willowy college student haunted by the suicide of her mother and the specter of a hollow-eyed little boy who turns up, uninvited, in her dreams, her mirrors, and, strangely, her medicine cabinet. (01/16/2009) – Marc Savlov
★ CM Cedar Park, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate.

Check Film Listings online for full-length reviews, up-to-date showtimes, archives, and more!

austinchronicle.com/film

special screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.



THURSDAY 22

Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy Quote-Along (2004)

D: Adam McKay; with Will Ferrell, Christina Applegate, Paul Rudd, Steve Carell. (PG-13, 91 min.) @Alamo Ritz, 7:45pm.

Beyond the Valley of the Dolls (1970)

D: Russ Meyer; with Dolly Read, Cynthia Myers, Marcia McBroom, David Gurian, Michael Blodgett, Edy Williams, Erica Gavin, Charles Napier. (NC-17, 109 min.) **Cult Thursday.** This is the Russ Meyer opus which, as naysayers like to point out, was written by the world's only Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic: Roger Ebert. Chock-full of campy raunch and mega-mammaries unbound, the movie tells the story of a rock & roll girl group that does whatever – and whom-ever – it takes to succeed. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

Boyz N the Hood (1991) *D:* John Singleton; with Ice Cube, Cuba Gooding Jr., Morris Chestnut, Larry Fishburne. (R, 107 min.) **John Singleton Movies.** Singleton's 1991 movie about three black boys growing to manhood in the combat zones of L.A.'s South Central remains a searing cultural indictment. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm; \$8.50.

Pop Princess Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz, 10:35pm.

SPACES

Sick Around the World (2008) *D:* Jon Palfreman. **Third Coast Activists.** A panel of doctors and other health-care professionals will screen this documentary about health care in other societies and lead a discussion on health-care reform here in the United States. @St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 7pm; free, donations accepted.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Feb. 6 issue is Monday, Jan. 26.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings):

specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com;

Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

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SPACES

“Gaza Under Siege” (2002) *D:* Charles Stewart. (NR, 27 min.) **Gaza Film Series.** This documentary focuses on one Gazan family's difficulties under Israeli occupation and also questions the international community's lack of response to the second intifada. @MonkeyWrench Books, 8pm.

The Unforeseen (2007) See p.76.

SATURDAY 24

The Matrix (1999) @Alamo Ritz, 7:40, 10:35pm. (See Fri., 1/23.)

Orfeo ed Euridice (2009) (NR, 91 min.) **Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD.** With choreography by Mark Morris and costumes by Isaac Mizrahi, this Gluck opera features the artistry of Stephanie Blythe in the male title role and Danielle de Niese as Orfeo's adored wife, Euridice. Music director James Levine conducts. @Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, CM Cedar Park, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, noon.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975)

D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.) Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the “Time Warp” thing live for more than 30 years straight. For more info, see www.austinfock.org. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

Villu (2009) @Tinseltown South, 2, 5, 8pm. (See Fri., 1/23.)

West Side Story (1961) @Paramount, 4, 7:30pm. See p.76.

Dark Side of the Rainbow: The Wizard of Oz With Dark Side of the Moon @Alamo Ritz, 12mid. (See Fri., 1/23.)

SPACES

Channeling: An Invocation of Spectral Bodies & Queer Spirits (2008) *D:* Various. (NR, 68 min.) **aGLIFF and Austin Video Bee.** This touring show provides an entryway into the spirit realm and the queer body politic: a program of experimental moving-image work that calls up the ghosts of the past and the specters of the future. The eight short works in the program take personal approaches toward political and historical problems that haunt the queer experience: the AIDS pandemic, the body in transition, the idealized nuclear family, and the narrow cultural standards of desirability. The program's curators will be in attendance. @The Hideout Theatre, 8:30pm.

Dionysus in '69 (1970) *D:* Brian De Palma and Richard Schechner; with William Finley, Joan Macintosh, Will Shepherd. (X, 85 min.) **Austin Film Society: First Blood – The Early Films of Brian De Palma.** De Palma captures a live performance of the avant-garde Performance Group's uninhibited and controversial update of the Euripedes play, *The Bacchae*, in Greenwich Village. See “The Obsessive,” Jan. 9, for more on the series. @Austin Film Studios Screening Room, 7, 9pm; \$4, AFS members free; reserve tickets online at www.austinfock.org.

FRIDAY 23

Battlestar Galactica TV at the Alamo.

@Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid; Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 9pm.

The Matrix (1999) *D:* Andy Wachowski and Larry Wachowski; with Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Hugo Weaving, Joe Pantoliano. (R, 139 min.) **Master Pancake Theater.** The Pancake funsters should have plenty to mock in this movie's blend of pop psychology, cyberpunk lore, and eye-popping visuals. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7:40, 10:35pm.

Villu (2009) *D:* Prabhu Deva; with Joseph Vijay, Nayantara, Prakash Raj, Manoj K. Jayan, Vadivelu, Adithya. (NR, 152 min.) A Tamil comedy and spy film starring Vijay in dual roles. @Tinseltown South, 9pm.

West Side Story (1961) See p.76.

Dark Side of the Rainbow: The Wizard of Oz With Dark Side of the Moon *D:* Victor Fleming; with Judy Garland, Margaret Hamilton. (G, 101 min.) Is there really a synchronicity between Hollywood's beloved *The Wizard of Oz* and Pink Floyd's 1973 musical opus, *Dark Side of the Moon*? Find out for yourself at this synced-up saunter to the dark side of the rainbow. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre 501 Studios' soundstage in Downtown Austin now doubles as one of Texas' largest public theatres – with a Sony Qualla HD projector, a 28-foot screen, 180 (removable) seats, a vintage popcorn machine, and affordable rates. Need a venue for premieres, wrap parties, or concerts/plays/performances featuring projection? This could be the place. Also still available as a soundstage/green screen. 485-3000. www.501studios.com.

Austin FilmWorks: Feature Lab This is Steve Mims' demanding new film-making sequence, in which students make two festival-competitive shorts and a feature-length film in an intense 16-month, four-semester program. Divided into three levels, Feature Lab includes Production 1, 2, and 3: introductory, intermediate, and advanced courses designed to create an individual short, a group short, and a group feature. See website for details. Orientation meeting: *Mon., Jan. 26, 6:30pm. Studio A-7, 701 Tillery.* www.austinfock.org.

Career-Building Classes From Austin School of Film An excellent slate of adult classes is available for your cinematic advancement at the Austin School of Film. Also, you can become an **Apple Pro Certified Final Cut Pro** user. Tech up, cineastes. See website for details. www.austinfock.org/classes.

Cine las Americas International Film Festival: Call for Entries The festival showcases contemporary films from North, Central, and South America; the Caribbean; and Spain. Works made by or about Latinos and native groups of the Americas are eligible to participate. The festival grants Jury Awards in the categories of First or Second Dramatic Feature, Documentary Feature, Dramatic Short Film, Documentary Short Film, and Youth Film. Audience Awards are also presented for Best Documentary Feature and Best Dramatic Feature. See website for details. Deadline (\$20 fee): *Jan. 30.* Deadline (\$40 fee): *Feb. 12.* www.cinelasamericas.org.

SUNDAY 25

Choose Your Own Master Pancake Master Pancake Theater. Bring a DVD of your choice to the show, the audience will select a favorite entry, and Master Pancake will do an instant mockery. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

MONDAY 26

Gossip Girl TV at the Alamo. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 7:15pm.

I Think We're Alone Now (2008) *D:* Sean Donnelly. (NR, 70 min.) Two of the singer Tiffany's most obsessed stalkers are profiled in this documentary, which premiered in Austin during last fall's Fantastic Fest. The Monday screening is part of the Alamo's Music Monday series for which special pricing pertains. @Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm.

SPACES

Double Indemnity (1944) See p.76.

TUESDAY 27

I Think We're Alone Now (2008) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Mon., 1/26.)

Invasion U.S.A. (1985) *D:* Joseph Zito; with Chuck Norris, Richard Lynch, Melissa Prophet, Alexander Zale. (R, 107 min.) **Terror Tuesday.** Russians invade Florida, so it's Norris to the rescue. @Alamo Ritz, 10:45pm.

Sisters (1973) See p.74.

Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 2009 (NR) A new volume of the Alamo's annual compilation of mind-boggling insanity and weirdness from Japanese television. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 10pm.

WEDNESDAY 28

Duck Soup Duck Feast (1933)

D: Leo McCarey; with Groucho Marx, Harpo Marx, Chico Marx, Zeppo Marx, Margaret Dumont. (NR, 70 min.) Laughs and real duck schmaltz with the Marx Brothers. @Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm.

I Think We're Alone Now (2008) @Alamo Ritz, 10:20pm. (See Mon., 1/26.)

Lost TV @ the Alamo. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 9:30pm; @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7pm.

Sinthia, the Devil's Doll (1968) *D:* Ray Dennis Steckler; with Shula Roan, Peter Balakoff, Bret Zeller, Gary Kent, Diane Webber. (NR, 78 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** A young woman's Freudian sex traumas are re-enacted in her dreams with the help of her therapist. The daddy at the root of it all is played by Austin resident Kent. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 2009 @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Tue., 1/27.)

offscreen

Latinitasfest: Cinema 101 is an all-day media conference where girls (ages 8-14) can engage in scriptwriting, casting, production, and set design. Girls will be invited to write a contemporary piece on a Latina icon from history. See website for details and registration. *Sat., Jan. 31, noon-5pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 322-9947.* www.latinitasmagazine.org.

Make Watch Love Movies: Austin Studios Re-opening The Austin Film Society celebrates the re-opening of Austin Studios (now upgraded with full soundproofing and air-conditioning for two stages, improved security and safety, and state-of-the-art digital infrastructure) with a party and a job fair, starting off with a ribbon-cutting ceremony (just like in the movies!) and remarks by Brewster McCracken, Richard Linklater, and Rebecca Campbell. *Fri., Jan. 30, 6-10pm. Austin Studios, 1901 E. 51st, 322-0145.* www.austinfock.org.

The Screenplay Workshop: Winter Registration All classes are taught by professional screenwriters and meet in Central Austin. **Screenwriting Fundamentals** *Tuesdays, 7-9:30pm, Jan. 27-Feb. 24. \$250 (\$235, if registered by Jan. 13).* **Screenwriting Master Class** *Tuesdays, 7-9:30pm, Jan. 27-March 31. \$450 (\$425, if registered by Jan. 13).* Also, private instruction and story consultation packages, seven hours of instruction, \$390. See website for more options. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.

Volunteer for SXSW! Jobs range from festival production to conference activities including registration, information, trade show, technical support, and more. Day and night positions available during the conference. Volunteers must be able to work a minimum of 30 hours or three nights during the event, depending on their crew type. See website for details and applications. Volunteer calls: *Jan. 25-26. Sun., 2-5pm; Mon., 6-9pm. Hilton Hotel, 500 E. Fourth.* www.volunteer.sxsw.com.

THURSDAY **29**

Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy Quote-Along (2004) @

Alamo Ritz, 7pm; Alamo Drafthouse Village, 10pm.
(See Thu., 1/27.)

Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang (2005) D: Shane Black; with Robert Downey Jr., Val Kilmer, Michelle Monaghan, Corbin Bernsen, Dash Mihok, Larry Miller, Angela Lindvall. (R, 103 min.) **Austin Film Festival:**

Conversations in Film. Black's directorial debut is a trippy tribute to L.A. noir and a genre-busting attack on Hollywood pretensions. Following the film, writer/director Black, one of the AFF's most popular panelists, will discuss the film. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7pm; \$12, \$10 for AFF members; tickets available at austinfilmfestival.myshopify.com/products/conversations-in-film-january-29.

Pop Princess Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz, 9:50pm. (See Thu., 1/22.)

imax

Beowulf: The IMAX Experience



All Access: Front Row. Backstage. Live! (2001) D: Martyn Atkins. (NR, 65 min.) This behind-the-scenes look at the inner workings of putting on a megaconcert combines candid moments backstage with musical performances by multi-Grammy-winning rock stars such as Santana, Sting, Sheryl Crow, the Dave Matthews Band, and appearances by Al Green, George Clinton, B.B. King, Moby, Rob Thomas, Mary J. Blige, Kid Rock, Macy Gray, the Roots, Trey Anastasio, and Cheb Mami. Thu. (1/22), 5, 7:30pm; Fri., 5pm; Sat.-Sun., 3, 5pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/29), 6pm.

Beowulf: The IMAX Experience (2007) D: Robert Zemeckis; with Ray Winstone, Anthony Hopkins, Robin Wright Penn, Brendan Gleeson, Angelina Jolie, John Malkovich. (PG-13, 115 min.) The irony inherent in using 21st century motion-control technology to tell a tale approximately 1,400 years old is just one of many bizarrely entertaining aspects of Beowulf. Fri.-Sat., 9:15pm.

Grand Canyon Adventure 3D: River at Risk (2008) D: Greg MacGillivray; narrated by Robert Redford. (NR, 40 min.) The river at risk is the Colorado. Water-conservation advocate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. joins ethnobotanist and author Wade Davis and their 18-year-old daughters for a rafting

trip down the river to the parched Colorado delta. Thu. (1/22)-Fri., noon, 3pm; Sat., 3pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/29), noon, 3pm.

Texas: The Big Picture (2003) D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.) Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as the state is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips. Thu. (1/22)-Sat., 10am, 1pm; Sun., 1pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/29), 10am, 1, 3pm.

The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience (2008) D: Christopher Nolan; with Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Gary Oldman, Aaron Eckhardt, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman. (PG-13, 152 min.) Batman soars back onto the big screen, no doubt hoping to catch a tailwind to the Oscars. Fri.-Sun., 6:30pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/29), 7:30pm.

Wild Ocean 3D (2008) D: Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas. (NR, 40 min.) Filmed off the coast of South Africa, this film examines the food chain, starting with the sardine runs, which are followed by dolphins, sharks, birds, humans, and other fish that opportunistically follow the migration. Thu. (1/22), 11am, 2, 4, 6:30pm; Fri., 11am, 2, 4pm; Sat., 11am, 2pm; Sun., 2pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/29), 11am, 2, 4pm.

festivals

Austin Jewish Film Festival See p.74.

SPACES

Tulia, Texas (2008) D: Cassandra Herrman and Kelly Whalen. (NR, 56 min.) This documentary, which screened at SXSW 08, explores the truth behind this town's notorious arrest in 1999 of 46 people for selling cocaine – nearly all of them African-American. The screening will be followed by a discussion with Nate Blakeslee, author of *Tulia: Race, Cocaine, and Corruption in a Small Texas Town*. @Mexican American Cultural Center, 7pm; free.

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listings



Sue Foley

Texas Guitar Women

Antone's, Friday 23

After 2½ years of patience, Sue Foley finally got an interview with Bonnie Raitt. What's the big deal about that? Raitt is arguably the most famous female

guitarist alive, and Foley's writing a book titled *Guitar Woman*. The notion of the two of them sitting down for a heart-to-heart is exciting news. So think of Antone's Guitar Women show as an expression of Foley's dedication to the six-string cause, as evidenced on her last CD, *New Used Car*. Coming along for the ride are steel picker Cindy Cashdollar (Van Morrison), drummer Lisa Pankratz (the Cornell

Hurd Band), and bassist Sarah Brown (Lucky Tomblin). Add in Carolyn Wonderland, coming off an excellent year with latest LP *Miss Understood*; the sultry soul of Erin Jaimes and her band; Rosie Flores' country croon; and Kathy Valentine's crackling band the Bluebonnets – with secret weapons Dominique Davalos and Eve Monsees – and you'll need a Kevlar vest to exit unscorched. – Margaret Moser

BRETT DENNEN, ERIN MCCARLEY La Zona Rosa, Friday 23

Brett Dennen's newest, *Hope for the Hopeless* (Dualtone), finds the L.A. folkie maturing in surprising ways, but more interesting is the night's opener. Nashville's Erin McCarley was reportedly signed after a 2008 appearance at South by Southwest, and her debut, *Love, Save the Empty* (Republic), points to a spunky Fiona Apple or the next coming of KT Tunstall. – Jim Caligiuri

PREY FOR SLEEP Red Eyed Fly, Friday 23

Amazing what one can learn from a gig poster at Waterloo Records: Prey for Sleep (12:30am), By Any Means Necessary (11:30pm), Years of Cold (10:30pm), Consumed (9:30pm), Southern Front (8:45pm), and Headcrusher (8pm). The first two proved their heavy mettle with 2008 local debuts, particularly grinders Prey for Sleep, while the remaining quartet of acts awaits discovery. As metal enjoys renaissance here in the ATX, so too should your evil ways. – Raoul Hernandez

KRS-ONE Mohawk, Saturday 24

Philosopher, teacher, and poet supreme KRS-One is hip-hop. Between boom-bap and Boogie Down Productions-era classics such as "South Bronx," "Sound of Da Police," and "The Bridge Is Over," the Blastmaster pontificates on all things with exaggerated enunciation and unflinching righteousness. Last year's *Maximum Strength* is the Bronx pioneer's best since 1997's *I Got Next*. Locals Cali Zack, Dubb Sicks, Zeale, Crew 54, and Brooks City open. – Thomas Fawcett

RELEASE ME

The release of local trio **Ume**'s excellent new EP *Sunshower*, at Mohawk Saturday night is guaranteed to be the noisiest this weekend, but it's just one of many in the net. Friday, country and blues-rock sixpiece **Flounders Without Eyes** fetes its latest, the Lloyd Maines-produced *What's the Rush*, at the Cactus Cafe, and the next night, **Athens v. Sparta** gives *The History of the Peloponnesian War* a musical revision. Also on Saturday: **PJ & the Bear** shred at Emo's, **Wideawake** keeps heads from nodding at Antone's, and **Built by Snow** drops *Mega* on Club de Ville. – Audra Schroeder

FREE LAURIE FREELOVE Antone's, Sunday 25

Years after being sidelined by Lyme disease complications, former Two Nice Girl Laurie FreeLove is getting back to work with a little help from her friends. Hosted by KUT's Larry Monroe and the new Austin Arts & Music Partnership, Sunday's benefit for FreeLove taps a panoply of local performers, including the Austin Lounge Lizards, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Sara Hickman, Greezy Wheels, Kathy McCarty, and ex-TNG bandmate Gretchen Phillips. 6:30pm. – Greg Beets

PINK NASTY, THE LOVELY SPARROWS Stubb's, Wednesday 28

Since releasing her 2006 sophomore effort, *Mold the Gold*, Pink Nasty's Sara Beck has kept a low profile. With new songs, the local folk rocker brings her wry humor back to the limelight. The Lovely Sparrows fly up front with the lush sounds of 2008's debut LP *Bury the Cynics*, and Minneapolis' Caroline Smith & the Good Night Sleeps fall in the middle. – Doug Freeman

TOPAZ & MUDPHONIC Continental Club, Thursday 29

Topaz & Mudphonic's 2008 release, *Music for Dorothy*, was criminally overlooked locally, but Topaz McGarrigle's blues/funk tenor sax vision possesses a dirty Texas soul best experienced in person. Gary Clark Jr. kicks off the night with a new project that includes Greyhounds keys wizard Anthony Farrell and the compelling trumpet of Ephraim Owens. – Jim Caligiuri

XXYX, THE YOUNG Emo's, Monday 26

XXYX, a duo from Nuevo León, Mexico, rages hard enough with just drums, bass, and vocals. Then the band starts piling on the loops and echo, and it sounds like Ragnarok is coming down on latest 7-inch *Sistema de Terminación Sexual*. Prepare to meet your maker with the Young's Pegboy-in-the-Dumpster rock and the slack post-punk of Diamondhead. Hardcore punk outfit the Glasses and Cruddy start the party at the end of the world. – Daniel Mee

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER *soundcheck*

JOHN LEGEND Bass Concert Hall, Friday 23

The lover man christens a revamped BCH with Estelle.

COMA IN ALGIERS, CRY BLOOD APACHE Red 7, Friday 23

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CORTO MALTESE, BASIC, WINE & REVOLUTION Emo's, Wednesday 28

Homegrown snap, crackle, pop.

TAPES 'N TAPES

The Parish, Thursday 29

Yes, this band's still around. Wild Light and locals Harlem open.



Hakim Green talks *Stop the Violence at* austinchronicle.com/earache.

in-stores

Saturday: **Chase Holbrook & the Porch Cats**, Antone's Record Shop, 3pm

Tuesday: **Wideawake**, Waterloo Records, 5pm



L - R: ERIN MCCARLEY (FRI., 1/23) | KRS-ONE (SAT., 1/24) | GRETCHEN PHILLIPS (SUN., 1/25) | TOPAZ & MUDPHONIC (THU., 1/29)

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WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28

MONTE MONTGOMERY 8:00 \$10
MEAGAN TUBB & SHADY PEOPLE 12:00 \$5
TAMECA JONES 10:00 \$5
No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 **BO PORTER**

JAN 30 - SETH WALKER
JAN 31 - BELLEVILLE OUTFIT & OCTAVE DOCTORS REUNION
FLASHBACK W/ BRUCE BOWLAND

Cactus 23RD & GUADALUPE

475-6515

THUR • JAN 22 • 8PM

GUITAR MASTERS
ADRIAN LEGG
PEPPINO D'AGOSTINO

FRI • JAN 23 • 8:30PM

CD RELEASE SOIREE
FLOUNDERS WITHOUT EYES
PLUS • GREEN MOUNTAIN GRASS

SAT • JAN 24 • 8:30PM

BUTTERCUP WITH
ATHENS V. SPARTA
CD RELEASE

MON • JAN 26 • 8PM

WHEATFIELD
WITH CONNIE MIMS • CRAIG CALVERT
EZRA IDLETT & KEITH GRIMS (TFIA)

TUE • JAN 27 • 7:30PM

SONGS FOR LAURA • CD SOIREE
LIBBY KIRKPATRICK • FOREST SUN
DANNY SCHMIDT • CARRIE ELKIN
MATT THE ELECTRICIAN & MORE

WED • JAN 28 • 8:30PM

AN EVENING WITH
STEVE POLTZ

THUR & FRI • JAN 29 & 30 • 8:30PM

IN CONCERT • THE CACTUS RETURN
GREG BROWN
ADV TIX @ HEBs AND ERWIN CENTER BOX OFFICE
477-6060 OR TEXASBOXOFFICE.COM

SAT • JAN 31 • 8:30PM

AUSTIN'S OWN • ONE SHOW ONLY!
ELIZA GILKYSON
SPECIAL GUEST • BEN MALOTT

TUE • FEB 3 • 8:30PM

MOLLY VENTER • RAINA ROSE

WED • FEB 4 • 8:30PM • FREE SHOW!

DAVID GARZA

THUR • FEB 5 • 8:30PM

JIMMY LAFAYE

FRI • FEB 6 • 9PM

TOM RUSSELL

SAT • FEB 7 • 8:30PM

JOE ELY WITH
JOEL GUZMAN

GUEST STAR • ROSIE FLORES
ADV TIX @ HEBs AND ERWIN CENTER BOX OFFICE
477-6060 OR TEXASBOXOFFICE.COM

cactus.union.utexas.edu

COMING SOON TO THE CACTUS

2.9	ANDY MCKEE	2.14	TERRI HENDRIX ♥
2.11	FRED EAGLESMITH	2.18	IAN MOORE
2.12-13	ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO	2.20	CHRIS SMITHER
	TIX@TEXASBOXOFFICE.COM	2.21	LOUNGE LIZARDS

23rd & Guadalupe • 475-6515

THE TEXAS UNION
The Cactus is located inside the Texas Union. Happy Hour is 4-7pm, Monday-Friday. Tickets @ the door & all shows @ 9pm unless otherwise noted.
23rd & Guadalupe. • 475-6515.

FROM TEXAS' OLDEST INDEPENDENT BREWERY™



SPOETZL

SHINER TOP TEN TEXAS ARTISTS



- 1) THE GOURDS Haymaker!
- 2) LUCINDA WILLIAMS Little Honey
- 3) ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO Real Animal
- 4) JOE ELY Live Chicago 1987
- 5) GRUPO FANTASMA Sonidos Gold
- 6) OKKERVIL RIVER Stand Ins
- 7) DEDRINGERS Sweetheart of the Neighborhood
- 8) VARIOUS ARTISTS Robert Earl Keen Tribute
- 9) JAMES MCMURTRY Just Us Kids
- 10) BLACK ANGELS Directions to See a Ghost

Shiner
THERE'S Nothing FINER!

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\$2 DRINK SPECIALS
EVERY THURSDAY ALL NIGHT LONG
SUNDAYS: ALL NIGHT HAPPY HOUR
\$2 DOMESTICS FRI & SAT UNTIL 11PM
\$2 DOMESTICS EVERY WEEKNIGHT

THURSDAY 1/22

DJ DIAMOND TIP
10PM-2AM
COLLEGE NIGHT \$2 HOLLAR

FRIDAY 1/23



10PM-2AM
SUNGLASSES AND MUSHROOMS

SATURDAY 1/24



10PM-2AM
BLACKTOOTH
SUNDAY 1/25



9PM-1AM
JT COLDFIRE
MONDAY 1/26



8PM-12 MID
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Austin's far-out music hall in San Marcos
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TH **JASON BOLAND**
FR **GEOFF UNION**
SU **CHEATHAM STREET ALL STARS**
MO **FOREST WAYNE ALLEN & YELLOW LADY SLIPPER**
TU **JORDAN MINOR & MIDNIGHT RIVER CHOIR**
WE **KENT FINLAY'S SONGWRITERS' CIRCLE**
COMING SOON
1/29 **BRETT CRENSHAW BAND**
1/30 **BILL RICE**
1/31 **BRUCE ROBISON**

119 CHEATHAM ST., SAN MARCOS 512-353-3777

Riley's TAVERN SINCE 1933

THU 1/22 **MICHAEL WREN**
FRI 1/23 **REDD VOLKAERT**
SAT 1/24 **KINGS OF HARD LUCK**
SUN 1/25 **OPEN MIC WITH GLENN ALLEN**
MON 1/26 **TIM BRUTON & FOREST WAYNE ALLEN**
TUE 1/27 **KENT MUSICK**
WED 1/28 **MOLLY HAYES**

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WWW.RILEYSTAVERN.COM

Transmission Entertainment - Transmit Socially

912 RED RIVER 

THU 1/22 @ 10PM
NASTY CLAN w/ The Alice Rose, Arizona, The Little Gentlemen
FRI 1/23 @ 10PM
THIS WILL DESTROY YOU w/ Balmorhea, Chief Rival // PopNoir SoundSystem in GREEN ROOM
SAT 1/24 @ 9PM
KRS ONE. Hosted by Bavu Blakes w/ local hip-hop by: Cali Zacks, Dubb Sicks, Crew 54, Brooks City, Zeale
TUE 1/27 @ 10PM
JC & CO. w/ Musée Mécanique, Low Line Caller
WED 1/28 @ 10PM
CFA w/ The Gospel Truth, ELVIS, All Eyes (TX)
THU 1/29 @ 10PM
WAR AGAINST SLEEP w/ SuperLiteBike, Monument to No One, Twin Blades
FRI 1/30 @ 9PM
SHEARWATER w/ Brazos, Black Before Red (outside) // Beautiful Supermachines, Magic Bullets, The Murdocks - 11:30pm (inside)
SAT 1/31 @ 10PM
SHANDON SHAM w/ A Sideshow Tragedy, Salesman
SUN 2/1 @ 10PM
MV & EE w/ Air Traffic Controllers, Woven Bones
WED 2/4 @ 10PM
WHITE RHINO w/ Smoke and Feathers
THU 2/5 @ 10PM
WILL JOHNSON w/ Monahans, Cory Branan

900 RED RIVER 

FRI 1/23 @ 9PM
DJ EVENT
SAT 1/24 @ 9PM
BUILT BY SNOW MEGA CD RELEASE w/ Hollywood Gossip, The Bubbles, The McKenzies (outside) // Harlem, Sunset (inside)
FRI 1/30 @ 9PM
THE FRONTIER BROTHERS CD RELEASE w/ Black Tie Dynasty, The Eastern Sea
FRI 2/6 @ 9PM
THE STAGS
SAT 2/7 @ 9PM
TEAM FAB DJs
FRI 2/13 @ 9PM
GOLDEN BEAR CD RELEASE w/ Basic
SAT 2/14 @ 9PM
YOUR KISSES CAUSE CRASHES & BETA VALETINE CD RELEASES w/ The Seas

611 E. 7TH 

THU 1/22 @ 9PM
KPWR BENEFIT SHOW! w/ CO2, Storm Shadow, Breakfast Club Crew, DJ Bullet
FRI 1/23
EARLY SHOW: **THE PAUL GREEN SCHOOL OF ROCK** @ 7pm // Coma in Algiers, Cry Blood Apache, Crushes, A Faulty Chromosome, Venison Whirled @ 9PM // +FREE in the lounge: Broken Gold DJing
SAT 1/24
EARLY SHOW: **THE PAUL GREEN SCHOOL OF ROCK** @ 7pm // SPARKS FUNERAL: 15 bands and comedians pay tribute to everyone's favorite soon-to-be-discontinuedbad decision maker // + FREE in the lounge: Ex-Sound Exchange DJ Night
TUE 1/27 @ 9PM
ASHERS (Mark from Unseen), The Deceased, Blank Generation
WED 1/28
FREE in the lounge: **\$GET MONEY BROTHAZS** (Mike Weibe & Jeremy)
THU 1/29 @ 9PM
CATTLE DECAPITATION w/ Psyopus, Book of Black Earth, Gigan // +FREE in the lounge: Rock of Ages Tattoo DJ Night
FRI 1/30
PACK OF WOLVES w/ Curse the Heavens, Fire From the Gods, 2nd to Last, Dying to Death // + FREE in the lounge: DJ Ross (from the Bled)

401 WEST 2ND 

THU 1/22
LEEMORK @ 7PM
LOW CASH THURSDAYS with **DJ PRINCE KLASSEN** @ 10:30PM
FRI 1/23
KAT'S MEOW @ 7PM
AUSTIN GIVES BACK: A Fundraising Event for DJ MELODIC with DJ Mel, Chicken George, Second Line Social, and Hobo D @ 10:30PM
SAT 1/24
MARSHALL FORD SWING BAND @ 7PM
FICTION w/ My Education, My Empty Phantom @ 10:30PM
SUN 1/25
JAZZ NIGHT with Ephraim Owens, Brannen Temple, & Red Young @ 7PM
TUE 1/27
GLOVER TANGO @ 7PM
THU 1/29
LOW CASH THURSDAYS with **DJ MEL & PRINCE KLASSEN** @ 10:30PM
FRI 1/30
ONE HUNDRED FLOWERS w/ Monarchs, The Cartographers, Joseph Campbell @ 10:30

upcoming shows

2/1 - MV & EE (Mohawk), 2/2 - Goblin Cock (Red 7), 2/6 - Fashion Freakout 2 (Mohawk), 2/6 - AU (Mohawk), 2/6 - Monotonix (Red 7), 2/7 - Applesed Cast (Mohawk), 2/6 - The Vandals (Red 7), 2/8 - Don Caballero (Red 7), 2/10 - Music Tapes (Mohawk), 2/13 - DJ Spooky (Mohawk), 2/13 - Agnostic Front (Red 7), 2/14 - White Ghost Shivers (Mohawk), 2/16 - Broken Spindles (Mohawk), 2/19 - Bright Black Morning Light (Mohawk), 2/20 - Misprint Beard & Moustache Competition (Mohawk), 2/21 - Pop Unknown Reunion Show (Mohawk), 2/27 - Wednesday 12 (Red 7)

www.transmissionentertainment.com



club listings

THU 22

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (9:30)

THE AMSTERDAM Kent Mayhew, Stephen Fryrear CD Release (9:00)

ANTONE'S DJ Mel

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Butch Morgan

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Human Milk, Bob & Barbara, School Police (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Tessmer

BEAUTY BAR Ian Orth, Still Going, the Juan Maclean (10:00)

BEERLAND The Persimmons, Deadly Companions, Something Fierce, the Ape Shits

THE BELMONT Mandy Lauderdale (9:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Shawn Nelson

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton

THE BROWN BAR DJ Gmau

CACTUS CAFE Peter Rowan (7:30), Pepinno D'Agastino, Adrian Legg (8:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE David Lazaroff, Psycho Blues Band

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Jean Synodinos (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Jason Boland (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Woodsboss (6:30), 3 Balls of Fire, Thunderchiefs, Eddie Angel (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Radiostar

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND PRINTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. Acts are listed chronologically. Schedules are subject to change, so call clubs to confirm lineups. Start times are provided where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Music listings deadline is Monday mornings, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Please indicate roadshows and residencies. Send venue name, address, phone, acts, and start times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; phone, 454-5766 x159; e-mail, clubs@austinchronicle.com.

Austin bands: We want to hear from you. If you haven't registered and uploaded your MP3s to the Musicians Register, go to austinchronicle.com/register. Anywhere your band is mentioned, your music will be featured.

roadshows

january

THU 22

The Juan Maclean, Beauty Bar
Something Fierce, the Persimmons, Beerland

Adrian Legg, **Pepinno D'Agastino**, Cactus Cafe

Eddie Angel, Continental Club

Rook, Creekside Lounge

Brad Paisley, **Dierks Bentley**, **Darius Rucker**, Frank Erwin Center

White Knuckle Drivers, Headhunters

Arizona, Mohawk

AI Di Meola, One World

Theatre

Chris Botti, Paramount Theatre
Claire Lynch Duo, **Jim Hurst**, Stubb's

FRI 23

Sue Foley, Antone's

John Legend, **Estelle**, Bass Concert Hall

Autons, Creekside Lounge

Reverend Deadeye, **Possessed by Paul James**, Emo's

Carley Wolf, Flipnotics

Coffeespace
Brett Dennen, **Erin McCarley**, La Zona Rosa

Diane Schuur, One World Theatre

Dead Space, the Parlor

Consumed, **Head Crusher**, Red Eyed Fly

Waylon Payne, Saxon Pub

The Woos, **Pseudo Slang**, Scoot Inn & Bier Garten

John Legend afterparty, Speakeasy

Papa Grows Funk, Stubb's
Peoplefood, United States Art Authority

SAT 24

De la Soul, **Big Red Rooster**, **Omega Red**, the Fanatics, **DJ LX**, Austin Music Hall

Wild Moccasins, Beauty Bar

Buttercup, Cactus Cafe

The Mackenzies, Club de Ville
James Intveld, Continental Club

Amebix, Emo's

Bleu Edmondson, Gruene Hall
Twilight Broadcast, Lucky Lounge

KRS-One, **Crew 54**, Mohawk
Vinyl Dharma, Momo's

Sons of Hercules, Scoot Inn & Bier Garten

SUN 25

Killola, the Action Design, **Badfish**, **Scotty Don't**, Emo's

Shake Russell, Gruene Hall
Gospel Silvertones, Maria's

Taco Xpress

Squid Bucket, **Lions Collide**, Red Eyed Fly

MON 26

Wheatfield, Cactus Cafe

YXX, Emo's

Contrabandits, Headhunters

TUE 27

Larkin Gayl, **Forest Sun**, Cactus Cafe

Helen Sung Quartet, Elephant Room

Hard Line Face, Headhunters

Less Is More, Red Eyed Fly

WED 28

Plastic Romance, Beerland

Steve Poltz, Cactus Cafe

Harptallica, Headhunters

Matt Wilson, Key Bar

Colton Ford, Oilcan Harry's

Caroline Smith & the Good Night Sleeps, Stubb's

THU 29

Greg Brown, Cactus Cafe

Bicycle Sighs, **Snakebite**, Carousel Lounge

Blood Royale, **Pickled Punks**, **Combat Shock**, Emo's

Harry Bodine, Evangeline Cafe
MSG Crew, Flamingo Cantina

Monument to No One, Mohawk

Tapes 'n Tapes, **Wild Light**, the Parish

Esmerelda Strange, the Parlor
Cattle Decapitation, Red 7

Greg Garing, Scoot Inn & Bier Garten

Griffin House, **Charlie Mars Band**, Stubb's

Focus Group, Triple Crown

for your benefit

THU 22

Grounded in Music Fundraiser w/ Patty Griffin, **Gibson Guitar Showroom**

FRI 23

DJ Melodic Benefit w/ DJ Mel, DJ Chicken George, Second Line Social, DJ Hobo D, **Lamberts**

SAT 24

Dell Children's Medical Center Benefit w/ the Sauce, **Austin Convention Center**

SIMS Benefit w/ Rattletree Marimba, **Copa Bar & Grill**

Safe Place Benefit, **Chili Cold Blood Chili Cook Off** w/ Tina Rose & the Jo's House

Band, Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins, **Jo's Hot Coffee**

East Austin Boys & Girls Club Benefit

w/ Damp Heat, Crazy, STRO FBH, Franchyze, Biology, Cooley Fly, Ill Phil, Q-Lee, Cordless Mike, BreakFest Club Crew, Invisible Target, Kids in Candy Shops, Ringo Deathstarr, DJ Freakin' Puerto Rican, **New Mint Room Rooftop**

SUN 25

Laurie Freeloove Benefit w/ Gretchen Phillips, Mady Kaye, Paul Pearcy, Blue Squeeze Box, Kathy McCarty, Greezy Wheels, Sara Hickman, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Austin Lounge Lizards, **Antone's**

THURSDAY JAN 22

THE BOXING LESSON

CALM BLUE SEA
NEW ROMAN TIMES • DJ MEL

EARLY • FRIDAY JANUARY 23

A SPECIAL SOLO SHOW

BOB SCHNEIDER

6PM
EARLY SHOW

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

Antone's

JAMES!
SATURDAY 1/24
HIS LAST NIGHT



FRIDAY JANUARY 23 • 9PM

TEXAS GUITAR WOMEN

with **SUE FOLEY**
CAROLYN WONDERLAND
THE BLUEBONNETS
ROSIE FLORES
CINDY CASHDOLLAR
SARAH BROWN • ERIN JAIMES
LISA PANKRATZ & MANY MORE

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

EARLY • SAT JANUARY 24

wideawake

"SOMETHING THAT WE CAN'T LET GO"

CD RELEASE
8PM w/ SPECIAL GUEST **SCARLET FADE**

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

LATER • SAT JANUARY 24

10PM

GARY CLARK JUNIOR

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SUN 25 JAN 6:30

FREE LAURIE FREELOVE

FEATURING THE AUSTIN LOUNGE LIZARDS
SARA HICKMAN • JIMMIE DALE GILMORE
GREEZY WHEELS • CAROLYN WONDERLAND
GRETCHEN PHILLIPS • KATHY MCCARTY • MADY KAYE
PAUL PERCY & EAST SIDE FLASH • BLUESQUEEZEBOX

MON 26 JAN

SPENCER THOMAS BAND

LARRY LANGE & HIS LONELY KNIGHTS

TUESDAY JAN 27

6PM **ABS HELPS RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR MEMPHIS BLUES COMPETITION WINNERS**

JIMI LEE & MIKE MILLIGAN
THE ALTAR BOYZ

9PM **Blue Tuesday** band **DEREK O'BRIEN**

FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST
OMAR DYKES

WEDNESDAY JAN 28

ERIC TESSMER BAND

with **AMERICAN GRAVEYARD**

THURSDAY JAN 29

MINGO FISHTRAP

UNCLE BRUNO FLY JACK

FRIDAY JANUARY 30

THE GOURDS

"HAYMAKER" CD RELEASE!

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SATURDAY JANUARY 31

APPEARING LIVE!

JJ GREY & MOFRO

ORANGE BLOSSOMS TOUR

WITH **JONATHAN TYLER & THE NORTHERN LIGHTS**

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 03

RUTHIE FOSTER

CD RELEASE

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 05

KEVIN COSTNER & MODERN WEST

WITH **PAULA NELSON**

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 06

STATE RADIO & REBELUTION

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SATURDAY FEB. 7 EARLY

ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL

LARGE BAND & SPECIAL GUESTS

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SATURDAY FEB. 7 • 10PM

BOB SCHNEIDER

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 08

With Love to Moms
A BENEFIT FOR ELIZABETH PARR

DALE WATSON
CASEY MCPHEARSON
LUCKY TUBB & MORE

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10

COREY SMITH

W/ SHANE HINES & THE TRANCE

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

THU 12 FEB

PINETOP PERKINS

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

W13 W14 W15

MARCIA BALL'S

BIG BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

ON SALE NOW • WWW.MARCIBALL.COM

WEDNESDAY APRIL 29

THE GASLIGHT ANTHEM

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
HEARTLESS BASTARDS
A DEATH IN THE FAMILY

ON SALE FRI JAN 23 • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

THURSDAY FEB 19

GORILLA VS. BEAR PRESENTS

LYKKE LI

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20

MISSY HIGGINS AND **JUSTIN NOZUKA**

WITH SPECIAL GUEST **LENKA**

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

WED 25 FEB

SON VOLT

WITH DOUG BURR

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FRI 27 FEB

KELLER WILLIAMS

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the Hole in the Wall

ARCADE RESTAURANT

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2538 GUADALUPE

...THURSDAY January 22...
Prayer for Animals
Boonesboro
10pm
Happy Hour: The Bill Jerram Band
6:30
Outside: Sick's Pack 8:00
NEEDLES and PINS Record Party
hosted by Angel Von Ripper 11pm

...FRIDAY January 23rd...
\$3 Cover: **Oak is Keeping Distant Lights**
Goldcure
Happy Hour: Jarvis Kronums Tasty
Treats 6pm
outside: **SLOWTRAIN's**
Friday Waltz

...SATURDAY January 24th...
\$3 cover **Grand Champeen**
One Mississippi
Gleeson 10pm

...SUNDAY January 25th...
Miss Beth and her Morning After
Mike and the Moonpies
Atomic Duo
10pm

...MONDAY January 26th...
Leo Rondeau
The Shake Em Ups
Tito and the Man 9pm
Happy Hour: Dave Insley's Careless Smokers, The McKay Brothers
6-9pm
Outside: Chuck Fleming, Adonorum
Lipton, Malorie Valentine 8-11

...TUESDAY January 27th...
The Bread
Dave Insley
Bob Showdown
Roger Wallace 9pm
Happy Hour: the Texas Mavericks
w/ Alvin Crow 6pm
Outside: Mike and the Moonpies

...WEDNESDAY January 28th...
Awkwardly Pleasant
Lonesome Heroes
Daren Hoff and the Hard Times
10pm
Happy Hour: The original Mexican
Bob 6pm
ON THE PATIO: the Rob Jewett Trio 8pm

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LIVE MUSIC SHOWCASE

THURSDAY, 1/22
NO COVER!
CORNELL HURD BAND 8pm

FRIDAY, 1/23
\$5 COVER!
GIRL GUITAR 6pm
CERRONATO 7:30pm
FOCO ROJO 9:30pm

SATURDAY, 1/24
NO COVER!
GIRL GUITAR 6pm
THE HUDSONS 7:30PM
BLUES MAFIA 9:30pm

SUNDAY, 1/25
7pm
DANCE! \$5 COVER
THE BREW

MONDAY, 1/26
CLOSED

SUNDAY, 1/25
NO COVER!
THE BANTERS 8pm

WEDNESDAY, 1/28
NO COVER!
LUNA DE PLATA with **HAYDEN VITERA** 7pm

ALL AGES, ALL THE TIME

Emo's

alternative lounging 505-8541 603 RED RIVER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22
INSIDE: **TERRY SNOW'S PUNK ROCK BINGO SHOW**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23
PRESCREENING OF FILM "THE FOLKSINGER" BEFORE MUSIC, DOORS @8PM
INSIDE: **REVEREND DEADEYE**
POSSESSED BY PAUL JAMES
OUTSIDE: **TINY TINY HEARTS • SILVER PINES**
SILENT LAND TIME MACHINE • INDIAN QUEEN MEDLEY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24
INSIDE: **LIONS • SCORPION CHILD**
PI AND THE BEAR CD RELEASE PARTY
BRIAN TWEEDY, MIKE, & ED (OF THE ROLLER) WILL BE DJING
OUTSIDE: **AMEBIX • SEVERED HEAD OF STATE**
SUB OSLO • DESKONOCIDOS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25
OUTSIDE: **101X PRESENTS** DOORS@7PM

SUBLINE
BADFISH
a tribute to
SUBLINE
WITH SCOTTY DON'T
FULL SERVICE • GRIMY STYLES

INSIDE: **KILLOLA • THE ACTION DESIGN**

MONDAY, JANUARY 26
INSIDE: **THE YOUNG • XYX** (MONTERREY, MEX)
DIAMONDHEAD • GLASSES • CRUDDY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28
INSIDE: **HOMEGROWN 101X PRESENTS**
CORTO MALTESE
WINE & REVOLUTION • BASIC

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29
CUT'S REVENGE PARTY
2 STAGES, 1 COVER
CASINO EL CAMINO DINNER TABLE RAFFLE
OUTFLOOR: **PICKLED PUNKS • SUMMER OF BLOOD**
EXILE • COMBAT SHOCK

INSIDE: **THE GOLDEN BOYS • BLOOD ROYALE**
YOU PEOPLE • ME VS. EVERYBODY
7 BLACK TORNADOES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30
OUTSIDE: **THE RETURN OF IGNITOR AND COURSE OF RUIN**
IGNITOR • COURSE OF RUIN
BANGLADESH • STIR THE SILENCE
DEAD EARTH POLITICS

BUY TICKETS IN ADVANCE* SHOWS ARE SELLING OUT!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31
INSIDE: **FUCKED UP**
ANNIHILATION TIME • IRON AGE • A.N.S.
OUTSIDE: **THE APESHITS**
ELVIS • RED LEAVES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3
INSIDE: **PASSAFIRE**
ELEVEN FINGERED CHARLIE • TANDORIFINGER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4
INSIDE: **THE LEGENDARY SHACK SHAKERS**
(FEATURING DUANE DENISON OF THE JESUS LIZARD)
IZZY COX

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5
INSIDE: **FREE SHOW**
JOEL'S B-DAY CELEBRATION
OH NO OH MY
OUTSIDE: **SUNGLASSES & MUSHROOMS**
AL SHIRE & THE HENCHMEN
THIRTY YARD STARE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6
INSIDE: **SHAPES HAVE FANGS**
CAVEDWELLER (SPLIT 7" RELEASE PARTY)
DIAGONALS • PILLOW QUEENS
OUTSIDE: **THE PRETTY THINGS PEEPSHOW**
A VINTAGE BURLESQUE SIDESHOW
7PM & 10:30PM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7
OUTSIDE: **Z-RO KING OF THE GHETTO**
PLUS K-RINO • POINT BLANK
KRIMINALS • C.O.D. • PIMPIN PEN

INSIDE: **NEILIYO • DJ JAUNTY & GAL PAL**
HYPE HEADZ DJ MARKUS IN BETWEEN SETS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8
INSIDE: **STRAIGHT LINE STITCH • OCCAM'S RAZOR**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10
INSIDE: **PRAYER FOR ANIMALS**
THE ARCHIBALDS
THE SOUR NOTES • THE BUBBLES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11
OUTSIDE: **STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO**
AWS • THE SWELLERS • THE STITCH UP
INSIDE, DOORS @ 7PM:
VALENCIA • HOUSTON CALLS
ARTIST VS. POET • CHANDELIER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12
INSIDE: **REVEREND PEYTONS**
BIG DAMN BAND
POSSESSED BY PAUL JAMES • TOM VANDENAVOND
OUTSIDE: **SILVER PINES • JC & CO**
DJ REMY MAC (RAMESH FROM VOXTROT)
INTERNATIONAL WATERS
DANS LA LUNE • WINE & REVOLUTION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13
OUTSIDE: **HIGH TENSION WIRES**
THE GOLDEN BOYS
CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE • THE GOSPEL TRUTH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14
INSIDE: **SPEEDEALER • BUZZCRUSHER**
SHIT CITY HIGH • BLOWER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15
INSIDE, DOORS @ 7PM:

MILLIONAIRES • CASH CASH
I SET MY FRIENDS ON FIRE
WATCH OUT! THERE'S GHOSTS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16
INSIDE, DOORS AT 6PM:
MYCHILDREN MYBRIDE
THE GHOST INSIDE • FOR TODAY
BROADCAST THE NIGHTMARE • NEWLYWED

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17
INSIDE, DOORS @ 6PM:
FIGHT FAIR (TRIPLE CROWN)
SCHOOL BOY HUMOR • THE FACTORY PARTY
THE DIVING CAPTAIN • HEY, ZEUS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
OUTSIDE: **HANK III & ASSJACK**
THOSE POOR BASTARDS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19
INSIDE: **ALL THE SAINTS**
PILLOW QUEENS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20
INSIDE: **GIL MANTERA'S PARTY DREAM**
NEILIYO

OUTSIDE: **DISTANT SECONDS • MIDGETMEN**
DEAF EARS • SAD ACCORDIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21
INSIDE: **A.A. BONDY • DOUG BURR**
BOOHER & THE TURKEYZ

*2/25 BUILT BY SNOW, THE AUTHORS, THE DIVING CAPTAIN (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 2/26 ATX ELLE ACOUSTIQUE: KRISTY LEE (MOBILE ALA), ANDREA, ARIANA BARR, TARA CRAIG, HEATHER COX, GINGER DOSS, KIMBERLY FREEMAN, HOLLOW, BRITNI HOOVER, CARI HUTSON, I AM HER, BEKA KELSO, AMANDA LEPRE, VICTORIA LOVE, JENNIFER MULHE • 2/27 FUJIYA & MIYAGI, PROJECT JENNY, PROJECT JAN (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 2/28 101X PRESENTS: DELTA SPIRIT, OTHER LIVES, DAWES (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 3/5 THE WHITE TIE AFFAIR W/ CHANDELIER, GO ACTION TEAM (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 3/7 TAKE ACTION TOUR: CUTE IS WHAT WE AIM FOR, BREATHE CAROLINA, MEG & DIA, EVERY AVENUE, ANARBOR (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 3/8 LUDO, SING IT LOUD, THIS PROVIDENCE, THE MORNING LIGHT (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 4/7 NEW FOUND GLORY W/BAYSIDE (OUTSIDE, ON SALE THURS 1/29) • 4/12 A SKYLIT DRIVE, DANCE GAVIN DANCE, ATTACK ATTACK!, IN FEAR AND FAITH AND LOWER DEFINITION (ON SALE NOW) • 4/14 BRIAN JONESTOWN MASSACRE (OUTSIDE, ON SALE SAT 1/24) • 4/17 THAT 1 GUY (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 4/25 ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE W/ SONIC SUICIDE SQUAD (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW)

*ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT emosaustrin.com, Waterloo Records, End of an Ear records & Sound on Sound records

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SAT FEB 14

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FLOGGING MOLLY
GREEN 17 TOUR
WITH THE AGGROLITES

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IN THE CLUB

THU JAN 22 — DOORS 9PM
CLAIRELYNCHDUO
WITH **JIM HURST**
FRI JAN 23 — DOORS 9PM
PAPAGROWSFUNK
SUN JAN 25

GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH
THE SHIELDS OF FAITH

WED JAN 28 — DOORS 9PM
PINK NASTY
WITH **CAROLINE SMITH**
& **THE GOODNIGHT SLEEPS**
AND **THE LOVELY SPARROWS**

THU JAN 29 — DOORS 9PM
GRIFFINHOUSE
WITH **CHARLIE MARS**

FRI JAN 30 — DOORS 9PM
ONE EYED DOLL
WITH **SHE CRAVES**

SAT JAN 31 — DOORS 9PM
SPACK DEEP AND DENTED
SOUNDWAVE BENEFIT CONCERT FEAT.
THE ARSSUPERNOVA
WITH **THE GOODNIGHT GODDESS**
AND **THE SCOTLAND YARDSALE**

SUN FEB 1 — DOORS 9PM
TELEPATH

TUE FEB 3 — DOORS 9PM
101X CHILLVILLE PRESENTS:
THE SUBMARINES
AND **THE MORNING BENDERS**

THU FEB 5 — DOORS 9PM
MAGNETSCHOOL
WITH **NAKED EMPIRE**
AND **LANGUAGE ROOM**

FRI FEB 6 — DOORS 11:30PM
JOHNNY GOUDIE
CD RELEASE PARTY
WITH **SUZANNA CHOFFEL**

SAT FEB 7 — DOORS 9PM
THE BRIDGE

SAT FEB 8 — DOORS 9PM
DAVE BARNES
WITH **DREW HOLCOMB**
AND **THE ORBANS**

FRI FEB 13 — DOORS 9PM
ANTI-VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY
HOUSEHOLD NAMES
WITH **DRAWING BOARD**
AND **WIRE TREE**

SAT MAR 1

101X
PRETENDERS
WITH **AMERICAN BANG**

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FRI MAR 6

101X
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SAT MAR 7

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TUE MAR 31

NEKO CASE
MIDDLE Cyclone
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SAT APR 4

SLIGHTLY STUPID

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Black Label Society
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FRI JUN 5

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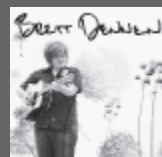
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LA ZONA ROSA

Tickets On Sale Saturday at 10 am



BRETT DENNEN
with Erin McCarley

JAN 23



TESLA
with The Leo Project

FEB 06



**SUSAN TEDESCHI &
JAMES HUNTER**

FEB 07



DEVOTCHKA
with Crooked Fingers

FEB 08



LUCINDA WILLIAMS
with Buick 6

FEB 20

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Thursday, Jan. 22nd **James Kinney** 9:30pm

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Friday, Jan. 23rd **John Legend** Doors open at 8pm

Saturday, Jan. 24th **Dysfunkshun Junkshun** 9:30pm

Monday, Jan. 26th **Jonathan Terrell** 9:30pm

Tuesday, Jan. 27th **Kalu James** 9:30pm

Wednesday, Jan. 28th **The Brew** 9:30pm
Free Salsa Lessons 9:00pm

Thursday, Jan. 29th **JJ Usher** 9:30pm

FRIDAY JANUARY 23
HOMESCHOOL RECORDS OFFICIAL
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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

RED 7 Venison Whirled, A Faulty Chromosome, Crushes, Cry Blood Apache, Coma in Algiers

RED EYED FLY Head Crusher, Southern Front, Consumed, Years Of Cold, By Any Means Necessary, Prey for Sleep

SÃO PAULO'S Three Jazz Collective (7:00)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Miss Bree & Rusty (7:30)

SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:00), Ray Wylie Hubbard, Waylon Payne (9:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Pseudo Slang, the Woes (9:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Dale Spaulding (6:00), Philip's Songwriter Roundtable (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Lixbox (9:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL The Space Rockers

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS DJ Gabe (9:00)

SPEAKEASY LC Rocks (9:30), James Kinney, DJ Chicken George, John Legend (10:00)

STUBB'S Papa Grows Funk (9:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Jul & the Chrome Wheels

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Zydeco Blanco, Boonesboro, the Bubbles, the Archibalds

UNITED STATES ART AUTHORITY Five Things w/ Peoplefood, Melody Murders (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Wynn Taylor

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN La Guerilla

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE Bobby Kennedy

SAT 24

THE AMSTERDAM Kent Mayhew, Jodi Adair (9:00)

ANTONE'S Wideawake CD Release (8:00)

ANTONE'S RECORDS Chase Holbrook & the Porch Cats (3:00)

AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER Dell Children's Medical Center Benefit w/ the Sauce (6:00)

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN Amy Glen & the Forgotten Heroes (10:00am)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Lili & Walter (6:00)

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Power Music Movement w/ DJ LX, John Pointer, Dawn Over Zero, Pimpin' Pen, Goodnight Goddess, the Fanatics, Crash Gallery, Zeale 32, Dreamt the End, Omega Red, Dirty Wormz, Big Red Rooster, De La Soul (2:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Alan Haynes

BEAUTY BAR The Monarchs, Wild Moccasins, the Unbearables

BEERLAND The Man Stamps, Diamondhead

'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Bruce Robison

THE BROWN BAR DJ Gmau

CACTUS CAFE Buttercup, Athens v. Sparta (8:30)

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Know More Robots, Shane Johansen & the Haymakers, Wall of Sound, Ethan Kennedy (7:00)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Erik Hokkanen (6:30)

CLUB DE VILLE The Mackenzies, the Bubbles, Built by Snow CD Release, Hollywood Gossip (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Redd Volkaert (3:00), James Intveld, Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Sprung

COPA BAR & GRILL SIMS Benefit w/ Rattletree Marimba (10:00)

COTTON CLUB The Debonaires

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Watching the Moon, Fatback Circus, Like Dogs, Bankrupt & the Borrowers

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THE WOES (NY)
PSEUDO SLANG (NY)
SATURDAY, JAN. 24, 9PM
SONS OF HERCULES
THE HEX DISPENSERS
FLASH BOYS
SUNDAY, JAN. 25, 9PM
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THURSDAY JANUARY 22

NAKIA
& HIS SOUTHERN COUSINS 10
LZ LOVE 11:45
ROBINSMITH 8:45
GINA CHAVEZ 7
NO COVER HAPPY HR
THE WOES 5:15

FRIDAY JANUARY 23

DAN DYER 11
KALU JAMES 9:30
PAPERWORK 8
BEN MALLOT 12:30

SATURDAY JANUARY 24

WARREN HOOD 10
VINYL DHARMA 12:30
SECOND DAY RED 8
SUNDAY JANUARY 25

matt powell trio 9:30
MILKDRIVE 8
ALLEN DANIELS 12:15
MONDAY JANUARY 26

FREEDY JOHNSTON 8:30
THE MOTION CENSUS 1:15
THE DIME STORE POETS 11:45
CHARLIE FAYE 10:15
JESSE SUBLETT 7

TUESDAY JANUARY 27
CASTRO'S BEARD 11:45
JEFF GALLAGHER 10:30
GOLDCURE 9:30
JAMIE THOMAS 8:15
MATTHEW CHAMPION 7
NO COVER HAPPY HR
DAVID SHEHANE 5:15

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28
DAN DYER 9:45
BEN MALLOT 12
DAVID RICE 8:30
WISEBIRD 7
NO COVER HAPPY HR
FINGERPISTOL 5:15

UPCOMING SHOWS

PATRICE PIKE 01/30
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MONDAY JAN 26
HAPPY HOUR
MARSHALL FORD SWINE BAND

THUR JAN 22
HAPPY HOUR
WOODSBOSS
THE TUNDRICHIETS 12:30AM

11:15PM
EDDIE ANGEL
3 BALLS OF FIRE 10PM

FRIDAY JAN 23
H. H. THE LEGENDARY
BLUES SPECIALISTS

12AM
Charanga Cakewalk

10PM
Patricia Vonne

SATURDAY JAN 24
MATINEE 3-7PM
REDD VOLKAERT
DALE WATSON AND HIS LONESTARS

12AM
JAMES INTVELD

SUNDAY JAN 25
W/ **REDD VOLKAERT**
AND **EARL POOLE BALL**

10PM
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HAPPY HOUR 6-30
PLANET CASPER
WARREN HOOD

12AM
david garza
WEDNESDAY JAN 28
HAPPY HOUR
GUY FORSYTH

10PM
SHINYRIBS
THURSDAY JAN 29
HAPPY HOUR
WOODSBOSS

10PM
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& **EPHRAIM OWENS!**

FRIDAY JAN 30
HAPPY HOUR THE LEGENDARY
BLUES SPECIALISTS
WOODSBOSS

12AM
ELEVEN HUNDRED SPRINGS

SATURDAY JAN 31
MATINEE 3-7PM
REDD VOLKAERT
T-BIRD AND THE BREAKS

10PM
THE GREYHOUNDS

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6 PM Poetry - 9 PM Music
Happy Hour All Night Long!

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Live Salsa 9 PM with CIENFUEGOS

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FREE YOGA - Check Online Calendar

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SATURDAY

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar:
Dave Insley, Patricia G.
(8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat
Edmonson

ELEPHANT ROOM Freddie
Mendoza w/ Butch Miles

EMO'S Amebix

EVANGELINE CAFE 3 Balls of Fire
(10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA The Reddies,
Mau Mau Chaplains (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE The
Just Desserts, Old Holdouts

GIDDY UPS LC Parker & the Boys

GRUENE HALL Adam Hood
(1:00), Whiskey Myers, Bleu
Edmondson (8:00)

HEADHUNTERS Last Rate Service,
Sunglasses & Mushrooms,
Tagalongs, Bass Line Bums,
Head Panic, Streetlight Suzy

HOUSE WINE Douglas Kent

IT'S ALL GOOD BAR Sam Bentley

JO'S HOT COFFEE Safe Place
Benefit, Chili Cold Blood
Chili Cook Off w/ Tina Rose
& the Jo's House Band,
Lucas Hudgins & the First
Cousins (9:00am)

JOVITA'S Girl Guitar, the
Hudsons, Blues Mafia

LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim
(8:00)

LAMBERTS Marshall Ford
Swing Band (7:00), Fiction,
My Education, My Empty
Phantom (10:30)

LOUIE'S 106 Kenny Luna (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Twilight
Broadcast, DJ Protege
(9:00)

MOHAWK Inside: Transmography,
Many Birthdays, Ume CD
Release; Outside: Brooks
City, Crew 54, Zeale 32,
Dubb Sicks, Cali Zack, KRS-
ONE CD Release (10:00)

MOMO'S Second Day Red, Vinyl
Dharma, Warren Hood

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN
Thomas "Doc" Grauzer
(11:30am)

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Benefit Inside Stage: Damp
Heat, Crazy, STRO FBH,
Franchyze, Biology, Cooley
Fly, Ill Phil, Q-Lee, Cordless
Mike, BreakFest Club Crew;
Rooftop: Invisible Target,
Kids in Candy Shops, Ringo
Deathstarr, DJ Freakin'
Peurto Rican (8:00)

NEWORLEDEL Made in the Shade
(7:00)

**NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT
& BREWERY** Stephen Doster
& Bill Carter (6:30)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Carport
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Saturday w/ DJ Licious

ONE 2 ONE BAR Meagan Tubb &
Shady People (10:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Blake
Stutts & the Immigrants
(8:00)

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Cutrufello

RED EYED FLY Scott H. Biram

RED FEZ DJ Kurv (10:00)

ROADHOUSE RAGS Madelyn
Cascio, Shawn Nelson & the
Ramblers, Noelle Hampton,
J.T. Wright & the Solstice
(5:00)

ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN Alex Coke
& Rich Harney (6:30)

RUTA MAYA The Service Industry,
Future Clouds & Radar, Right
or Happy (9:30)

SAXON PUB W.C. Clark, Sunny
Sweeney, Anthony Eby

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Flash
Boys, Hex Dispensers, Sons
of Hercules (9:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT
Albanie Faleta, Tony Airolidi
(8:00)

**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB &
GRILL** E-7

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Yoda's Bones

THUNDERBIRD COFFEE HOUSE
BettySoo, Will T. Massey
(8:00)

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Mirage
Jazz Ensemble (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Scraps of Life,
Lug, Replacement Killers

THE WATERHOLE SALOON Mary
Welch y los Curanderos
(8:00)

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE
GROVE** Bobby Kennedy

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN
Wynn Taylor

SUN 25

ANTONE'S Laurie
FreeLove Benefit
w/ Gretchen Phillips,
Mady Kaye, Paul Percy,
Blue Squeeze Box, Kathy
McCarty, Greezy Wheels,
Sara Hickman, Jimmie Dale
Gilmore, Austin Lounge
Lizards

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Eddie Collins

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tunes
Session (8:00)

BEAUTY BAR No Mas Bodas,
Gayle Gold, Fancy Feast

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J.
Kline (8:00)

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/
Brian

CEDAR STREET Dertybird

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Señor
Gato (12:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Aaron
Lack's Steel Pan Trio (12:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE
Cheatham Street All-Stars

CONTINENTAL CLUB Heybale!
(10:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly
Playboyz (7:00)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE EsBat, Los
Super Avengers, Damage
Pants

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris
Kimura Quartet (7:00)

FREE LAURIE FREELOVE

*An Awareness and Fund Raiser for
the Austin Art and Music Partnership and Laurie*

with **Austin Lounge Lizards, Jimmie Dale Gilmore,
Carolyn Wonderland, Sara Hickman, Greezy Wheels,
Gretchen Phillips, Kathy McCarty, Mady Kaye,
Paul Percy (with East Side Flash), and bluesqueezebox**
Hosted by **Larry Monroe • Special guests!**

Sunday, Jan. 25
Doors open 6PM



ANTONES
213 W. 5th Street
512/320-8424

MUSIC POLL BALLOT

AUSTIN BAND OF THE YEAR:

AUSTIN MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR:

AUSTIN SONG OF THE YEAR:

AUSTIN ALBUM OF THE YEAR:

BEST NEW AUSTIN BAND:

Best Performing Bands

ROCK:

PUNK:

METAL:

INDUSTRIAL/GOTH:

DJ:

INDIE:

JAZZ:

BLUES:

HIP-HOP:

INSTRUMENTAL:

EXPERIMENTAL:

COUNTRY:

BLUEGRASS:

ROOTS ROCK:

FOLK:

LATIN TRADITIONAL:

LATIN CONTEMPORARY:

WORLD MUSIC:

COVER BAND:

TEEN/U18/KID BAND:

NONE OF THE ABOVE:

Best Austin Musicians (BAND IF APPLICABLE)

FEMALE VOCALS:

MALE VOCALS:

ELECTRIC GUITAR:

ACOUSTIC GUITAR:

BASS:

DRUMS/PERCUSSION:

KEYBOARDS:

MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUMENT:

SONGWRITER:

PRODUCER (PRODUCER NAME, ALBUM TITLE):

Related Categories

NEW CLUB:

LIVE MUSIC VENUE:

ACOUSTIC VENUE:

ALL-AGES VENUE:

RECORD STORE:

After 28 years, you know the drill: This is your chance to duct-tape the critics' mouths shut and speak up about Austin music. Not sure whom to vote for? Turn on the radio, drop by the local record store, or head to the clubs. Your favorite band is probably playing.

RADIO STATION:

RADIO MUSIC PROGRAM (SHOW, DEEJAY, STATION):

RADIO PERSONALITY (SHOW, DEEJAY, STATION):

LOCAL LABEL:

Texas Music Hall of Fame Nominations

Is Biscuit in the Hall of Fame? What about Roky and Willie? Previous winners are listed on the Web at austinchronicle.com/musicpoll/fame. (The answer is yes.) Please circle one or fill in the blank*:

Sixteen Deluxe	Jo Carol Pierce
The Cherubs	True Believers
The Dicks	Matthew Robinson
Hosea Hargrove	Watchtower
Carolyn Hester	Dale Watson
Pariah	Danny Roy Young
	Kelly Willis

OTHER NOMINEE*

Who are these people, and why should you vote for them? Visit the poll ballot online at austinchronicle.com/musicpoll for more information!

Required Information

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

AGE

PHONE

ONLY BALLOTS WITH A FULL NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS WILL BE COUNTED!

Please mail to: Music Poll
The Austin Chronicle
PO Box 49066
Austin, TX 78765

• Entries must be postmarked by **FRIDAY, JAN. 30, 2009**. • You can vote either by this mail-in ballot or on the Web at austinchronicle.com/musicpoll. • Ballot must be mailed in; no hand deliveries accepted. • Absolutely no more than one ballot to an envelope. • Photocopied ballots will not be accepted. • Ballot-stuffing may be punishable by public ridicule or a week in the stocks.

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SUN FEB 1

Seven Huge HDTVs
Great Food & Drink
Frosty Beer Specials

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❖ **IRISH TUNE SESSION SUNDAY 9-ISH**

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SERVING UP FOOD & FUN SINCE 2000

Hanovers

THURSDAY 8pm-12am
KARAOKE

SUNDAY
Poker League 5:30-8:30pm

FRIDAY Live Music (1/23) \$10 Cover
SKYROCKET!! 80s Nite

SATURDAY Live Music (1/24)
NO COVER WELDON HANSON
Honky Tonk

FRIDAY Live Music (1/30) NO COVER
CHEAP SUNGLASSES
ZZ Top Tribute Band

SATURDAY Live Music (1/31)
NO COVER THIRD STEEL Classic Rock

FRIDAY Live Music (2/6) NO COVER
RELENTLESS JONES

SATURDAY Live Music (2/7)
NO COVER COMMONWEALTH

FRIDAY Live Music (2/13) NO COVER
JOHNNY HOOTROCK & BURLESQUE GIRLS

SATURDAY Live Music (2/14)
NO COVER VALENTINE DJ
PARTY – Naughty or Nice
Lingerie Party

HAPPY HOUR
Happy Hour Weekdays from 2pm-7pm
Every day: \$2 Domestic Bottles & Draft,
\$3 Import Bottles & Draft

VOLLEYBALL
Courts available 7 days a week.

NEW BAR HOURS
M-F 2pm-2am; Sat/Sun 11am-2am

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Segovia

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FULL BAR & LIVE MUSIC

THU 1/22
DALE SPALDING 6P
ZEE ROCK 8P

FRI 1/23, 8P
PHILLIP'S SONGWRITER ROUNDTABLE

SAT 1/24, 8P
TONY AIROLDI & ALBANIE FALETA

EVERY SUNDAY
SERVICE INDUSTRY NIGHT
HAPPY HOUR 'TIL 9PM

TUE 1/27, 8P
GIPSY HEART
W/ LEANNE ATHERTON & ZEE

WED 1/28, 8P
ALBANIE'S SWING SET

7010 HWY 71 W
AT THE "Y" @ OAK HILL, HEB SIDE
BREAKFAST MON-SAT 7:30AM
SUNDAY BRUNCH 10AM-3PM
OPEN DAILY UNTIL 11PM
FRI & SAT 1AM

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THURSDAY JAN 22 *COUNTRY/ROCK* DOORS 8:30

STOP THE TRUCK
WITH SPECIAL GUEST FREDDY POWERS
AND TRISH BALES BAND

FRIDAY JAN 23 *ELECTRIC LATIN* DOORS 9:00

BOMBASTA!
EL TULE & BOCASTRIA
- MANOLO BLACK -

SATURDAY JAN 23 *REGGAE* DOORS 9:00

MAU MAU CHAPLAINS
THE REDDIES

WEDNESDAY JAN 28 *FUNK/JAM* DOORS 9:00

THE DARBY DRIVERS
SUGARBACK & THE CONTRABANDITS

UPCOMING SHOWS

01 29: HAPS, MSG CREW, HOPS KOTCH

FRIDAY JANUARY 30TH & SATURDAY JANUARY 31ST

THE SLACKERS
(LIVE FROM FLAMINGO CANTINA DVD RELEASE PARTY)

WWW.FLAMINGOCANTINA.COM

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SUNDAY

ELEPHANT ROOM James Speer (9:30)

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

EMO'S Outside: Grimy Styles, Full Service, Scotty Don't, Badfish; Inside: The Action Design, Killola

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Jackie Bristow (8:00)

FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam (8:00)

GARRISON PARK HARBOR Patterson Barrett, Jimi Lee

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (4:00)

GREEN PASTURES Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)

GRUENE HALL Ruby Jane Smith (12:30), Shake Russell (4:00)

HEADHUNTERS Horse Opera, the Original Mexican Bob

JOVITA'S The Brew (7:00)

LAMBERTS Ephraim Owens, Brannen Temple, Red Young (7:00)

LATITUDE 30 Luke Jackson (9:00)

LOVE Sarah Sharp w/ Slim Richey (4:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE OJ & the Broncos (10:00)

MANUELS Acoustic Jungle (11:30am)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Gospel Silvertones, McMercy Family Gospel Band (noon)

MEAN-EYED CAT Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins

MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Open Mic w/ Chris Davis (4:00)

NUEVO LEÓN Mariachi Relampago (1:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)

THE PIER ON LAKE TRAVIS Open Mic (4:00)

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

RED EYED FLY When Vegas Attacked, Lions Collide, Squid Bucket, Pride Like Lions, the Stampede

RED FEZ DJ Kurupt (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen

ROADHOUSE RAGS Roy Heinrich & the Pickups, Eric Hisaw (5:00)

RUTA MAYA Ritmo 3, Seven Seals & the Wingless Angels (7:00)

SAXON PUB The Resentments, Bobby Whitlock & CoCo Carmel, the Salingers (7:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN James Bullard, Douglas Kent (9:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D

STUBB'S Brunch w/ the Shields of Faith (11:00am)

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Brunch w/ the Bells of Joy (11:00am)

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 360 Sunday Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Brunch w/ the Jeff Lofton Quartet

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Jukebox Heroes

MON 26

ANTONE'S Larry Lange & the Lonely Knights, Spencer Thomas (8:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Heard Showcase

BEERLAND World-Famous Karaoke

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (9:00)

CACTUS CAFE Wheatfield (8:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Forest Wayne Allen

CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco (6:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Marshall Ford Swing Band (6:30), Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)

CORK & CO. Open Mic w/ Rocking G. (7:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Bruce Smith (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE James Speer

ELEPHANT ROOM Austin Jazz Band (6:00), Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (9:30)

EMO'S Cruddy, the Glasses, Diamondhead, XYX, the Young

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux (6:30)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE T. Jarrod Bonta (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Mildrive (8:00)

GRUENE HALL Bret Graham (6:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HEADHUNTERS Contrabandits, Nematoads

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LUCKY LOUNGE The Other Dudes, the Spoiled (10:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson & Joley Flowers

MUGSHOTS Open Mic w/ Acoustic Odyssey (8:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Ru Coleman & Texas Boogie

RED FEZ Komson (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Tim Bruton, Forest Wayne Allen

ROOM 710 Heart & Soul Sound System (8:00)

RUTA MAYA Dub Transistor w/ Dreadbeard & Gypsyzen (7:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Stormy Monday Open Blues Jam w/ Breck (8:00)

SAXON PUB Matt the Electrician, Bob Schneider, Jeff Plankenhorn, Level Hill

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Brent Wood

SPEAKEASY Jonathan Terrell

TRIPLE CROWN Phil Stevens (6:00)

TUE 27

ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL Austin Symphony Orchestra (2:00)

ANTONE'S Austin Blues Society w/ Mike Milligan & the Altar Boyz, Jimi Lee (7:00), Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Debra Peters' Accordion Roundup

CACTUS CAFE Matt the Electrician, Danny Schmidt, Carrie Elkin, Forest Sun, Noelle Hampton, Larkin Gayl, Libby Kirkpatrick (8:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Blue Squeeze Box (9:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Jordan Minor

CONTINENTAL CLUB Planet Casper (6:30), David Garza (10:00)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22 • 7PM

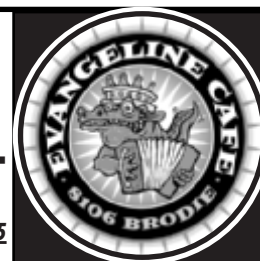
CRAIG TOUNGATE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23 • 10PM • \$5

MICHAEL HOLT & THE TROPHY 500'S

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24 • 10PM • \$5

3 BALLS OF FIRE



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282-2586

MONDAY, JANUARY 26 • 6:30PM

CHARLES THIBODEAUX

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
KEVIN GALLAUGHER & GREG ANDERSON 8PM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28 • 7PM

CHARLIE IRWIN & FRIENDS

WATERLOO

Ice House

☆ ☆ THIS WEEK ☆ ☆



6TH & LAMAR

THURSDAY, JAN. 22, 6:30-9:30PM

THE HUDSONS

FRIDAY, JAN. 23, 7PM

LA GUERRILLA

SATURDAY, JAN. 24, 7PM

WYNN TAYLOR



38TH & MEDICAL

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, JAN. 22 & JAN 23, 7PM

SARAH PIERCE

SATURDAY, JAN. 24, 7PM

BETH LEE

SUNDAY, JAN. 25

JEFF LOFTON QUARTET'S JAZZ SUNDAY BRUNCH 11AM

WILL DUNLAP'S JAM 7PM

TUESDAY, JAN. 27, 7PM

WILL DUNLAP

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28, 7PM

PTARMIGAN



9600 ESCARPMENT

THURSDAY, JAN. 22, 7PM

THE SLACKEY FAMILY BAND

FRIDAY, JAN. 23, 7PM

BOBBY KENNEDY



SOUTHPARK MEADOWS

FRIDAY, JAN. 23, 10PM

WYNN TAYLOR

SATURDAY, JAN. 24, 10PM

BOBBY KENNEDY

SUNDAY, JAN. 25, 10PM

SOUTHPARK MEADOWS SERVICE INDUSTRY

SUNDAYS W/ THE JUKEBOX HEROES

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28

KARAOKE!!!

WATERLOOICEHOUSE.COM

LES & THE FUNK MOB

FRIDAY 9:30

SUEDE

SATURDAY 9:30



HAPPY HOUR 6-8 HEADLINERS 9:30

THU	22	BRYAN ANDREW LEE	BUZZFUEL
FRI	23	TRENT & DAVE	LES & THE FUNK MOB
SAT	24		suede
SUN	25		jeremy nail & the incidents
MON	26	IN THESE SHOES	CALLING JACK BURTON
TUE	27	LIZ MORPHIS	THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION
WED	28	GRAND HOTEL	SPAZMATICS

**CEDAR
STREET**
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442-6189
PHOTO BY M. DAPRA
WED, JAN 21 6-8PM TONY HARRISON
9PM LUCKY TOMBLIN
THU, JAN 22 8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9PM JESSE DAYTON
FRI, JAN 23 8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
SAT, JAN 24 9PM BRUCE ROBISON
TUE, JAN 27 DEBRA PETERS & THE ACCORDION ROUNDUP
NO COVER

THE Parish

PLANETA EN RITMO PRESENTS:
THU 22 JAN
LOS BAD APPLES & DJ CHICKEN GEORGE
AMPLIFIED HEAT, YAYO

HOLLA AT CHA BOY PRESENTS:
FRI 23 JAN
ANA SIA
VIBESQUAD
NOSAJ THING

THU 29 JAN 101X/NEXT BIG THING & AUSTINIST PRESENT:
TAPES N TAPES
WILD LIGHT, HARLEM

FRI 30 JAN 101X PRESENTS:
LOS CAMPESINOS!
TITUS ANDRONICUS

SAT 31 JAN SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE PARTY
w/ DJ MEL

TUE 03 FEB WAKARUSA WINTER CLASSIC
THE LOST PINES, GOBI
UNCLE LUCIUS, RAMZ
THE 2 DOLLAR SOUND

FRI 06 FEB EMBER
DEEJER, CRIMSON ENVY

SAT 07 FEB RING THE ALARM
DJ BABY G, JAH MIGHTY
JR. VIBES ON THE MIC

UPCOMING SHOWS:
 2/4, 2/11, & 2/18: Fastest Bartender Contest 2/9: Joshua Radin w/ Meiko & Jesse Harris 2/11: The Blue Hit w/ Oso Cioso & Snarky Puppy 2/13: 101X Next Big Thing Presents: Annals w/ Jessica Lea Mayfield & What Laura Says 2/14: D-Madness CD Release w/ Brannen Temple Quartet, DJ Rapid Ric feat. Bavu Blakes 2/17: Link Austin 2/18: 101X Home Grown Chill w/ Govinda, OHN, & Shuttle Debris 2/19: WILD LIFE w/ Richard Gear, Joshua Distance, & King Louie 2/20: Matt Wertz w/ The Alternate Routes 2/21: Rock the Casbah w/ DJ MEL 2/26: Illusionist Electric Orchestra w/ DJ Manny 2/27: Moving Matter

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING SHOWS AND TO BOOK YOUR BAND'S LIVE RECORDING SESSION- GO TO: THEPARISHROOM.COM
FOR BOOKING INQUIRIES: SHEMAKESITHAPPEN@GMAIL.COM
ALSO, SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL LIST & WIN A PAIR OF TICKETS TO AN UPCOMING SHOW!

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM TUESDAY

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Anthony Farrell & Josh Perdue, Bill Carter & Stephen Doster (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith w/ Jon Doyle (6:00), Helen Sung Quartet (9:30)

ELYSIUM '90s Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (6:00), Kevin Gallagher, Greg Anderson (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)

FRIENDS Erin Jaimes Band (9:00)

GIDDY UPS Gregg Duffy

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Jim Stringer (9:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HEADHUNTERS Bill Davis Singer-Songwriter Stage, Hard Line Face

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Bill Rice

HOUSE WINE Jay Sims

JOVITA'S The Banters (8:00)

KEY BAR Jukebox Heroes (8:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LAMBERTS Glover Tango (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Stillwater Pioneers (8:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR In the Round w/ Wayne Sutton (8:00), Karl Morgan (10:30)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Chicken Dog (6:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Troubadillos

RED EYED FLY Space Thief, Less Is More, For Sake of the Ruins

RED FEZ Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Kent Musick

ROUND ROCK ISD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER Austin Symphony Orchestra (10:00am, 11:15am)

RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Erin & Michael (9:00)

SAXON PUB Robbie & the Rogues (5:00), Dedringers, Bruce Hughes, Tom Gilliam (8:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Beth Lee, Beth Lee (9:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Leeann Atherton (7:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Five Ways From Sunday

SPEAKEASY Kalu James (9:30)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Paul

TRIPLE CROWN Bill Passalacqua, Grant Ewing

TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Sunny Fairly

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Will Dunlap (7:00)

WATERLOO RECORDS Wideawake (5:00)

WED 28

THE AMSTERDAM Rick Busby's Songwriter Stage (6:00)

ANTONE'S American Graveyard, Eric Tessmer (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King (7:30)

AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL Austin Symphony Orchestra (10:00am)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Lonesome Dave Fisher (9:00)

AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Ribeye Red (10:00)

BEERLAND The Stuffies, Plastic Romance, Monkeytown

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dale Watson

CACTUS CAFE Steve Poltz (8:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Daniel Moore, Neal Kassanoff (7:00)

CEDAR STREET Grand Hotel (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)

CHEZ ZEE Jacinta (7:00)

THE COCKPIT Club Inclusive w/ Julie Nolan (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Guy Forsyth (6:30), Shinyribs, Warren Hood (10:00)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Abigail und Hansel, Devil Bat, 7-Inch Stitch, Night Viking (10:00)

CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)

DARWIN'S PUB Johnny Austin (8:00)

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Elizabeth Wills, Anthony Farrell (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Megasauros Big Band (9:30)

EMO'S Basic, Wine & Revolution, Corto Maltese

EVANGELINE CAFE Charlie Irwin (7:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Sugarback, Darby Drivers (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Greezy Wheels

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Paul Finley CD Release (8:00)

GIDDY UPS Jane Bond & Will Knaak, Open Blues Jam w/ Nick Kantar (5:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Zack Walther & the Cronkites (7:00)

HEADHUNTERS Power Squid, the Jazzus Lizard, Harptallica

HOUSE WINE Kenney Malone

JOVITA'S Haydn Vitera (7:00)

KEY BAR Matt Wilson (8:00)

LA FUENTES RESTAURANT & TEXAS BEER GARDEN Open Mic, Musicians Contest (7:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)

LBJ HIGH SCHOOL Austin Symphony Orchestra (2:30)

LOUIE'S 106 Red Young (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Lance & Tyler w/ Melodic Drifters, the Lennings (10:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem (9:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Earl Poole Ball, Gary Claxton (8:00)

MOMO'S Fingerpistol (5:00)

MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Clay Jefferies (8:00)

OILCAN HARRY'S Club Popular w/ Colton Ford

ONE 2 ONE BAR 80H Project (10:00)

THE PARLOR Walabama, Bob & Barbara (8:00)

PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete Benz (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Texcentric Radio Hour (7:30)

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RILEY'S TAVERN Molly Hayes

ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D.

RUTA MAYA Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos (7:30)

SAXON PUB Bo Porter (6:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Austin Poetry Slam (8:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Albanie Faleta's Swing Set (8:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Radiostar

SHINER'S SALOON Jeremy Steding (10:30)

SPEAKEASY Salsa Lessons, the Brew (9:00)

STUBB'S The Lovely Sparrows, Caroline Smith & the Good Night Sleeps, Pink Nasty

TRIPLE CROWN Erickson, Saltwater Shoes, Our Favorite Colors, Stegosaurus Lips

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Ptarmigan (7:00)

Z'TEJAS Will Sexton, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

THU 29

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (9:30)

THE AMSTERDAM Kent Mayhew, Rick Busby, Jackie Bristow (9:00)

ANTONE'S Uncle Bruno, Flyjack, Mingo Fishtrap (9:00)

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

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FRI JAN 1/23
10PM Prison Folk Rock
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SAT JAN 1/24
10PM Bankrupt & the Borrowers
Like Dogs, Fatback Circus, Watching the Moon

SUN JAN 1/25
10PM Choro Approved Presents...
Damaged Pants, Los super Avengers, EsBat

WED JAN 1/28
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1/30 2009 Dance-a-thon CASH PRIZES!!!!
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HMS FOOLHARTY
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THU 1/27
BLACKHOLMS
BARONGOOD
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Wed 1/28
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TEEP221IT
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1.29 Keefer, Scraps of Life, Stone Dakota 1.30 Friends of Houston
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1/28(W)-HARPALICA, THE JAZZUS LIZARD, POWERSQUID, MATTS OPEN MIC(P)
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CLUB LISTINGS FROM THURSDAY

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 American Wildlife (8:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Jimi Lee
BEERLAND Contact High Fives
THE BELMONT Mandy Lauderdale (9:00)
BOTTICELLI'S Leeann Atherton, Kevin Carroll (8:00)
BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL Austin Symphony Orchestra (2:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton
THE BROWN BAR DJ Gmau
CACTUS CAFE Greg Brown (8:30)
CANNOLI JOE'S Rich Harney & Alex Coke (6:00)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Bright Duplex, Snakebite, Book of Shadows, Bicycle Sighs, Luxuriator
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Shinyribs (6:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Brett Crenshaw
CONTINENTAL CLUB Woodsboss (6:30), Topaz & Mudphonic (10:00)
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat Edmonson, Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Sarah Temple, Butch Miles
EMO'S Outside: Combat Shock, Exile, Naw Dude, Summer of Blood, Pickled Punks; Inside: Seven Black Tornadoes, Me vs. Everybody, You People, Blood Royale, the Golden Boys
EVANGELINE CAFE Harry Bodine (7:00)
THE FIFTH GALLERY DJ John Gomi & Beatimprint (9:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Hops Kotch, MSG Crew, Haps (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)
GIDDY UPS Mike Morgan (5:30), Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon (8:30)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow & the Rogues (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Stewart Mann & the Statesboro Revue (6:00)
HOUSE WINE Kelly Mickwee & Andy Hardin (6:00)
JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)
LAMBERTS DJ Mel, Prince Klassen (10:30)
LATITUDE 30 Jordan Tanner (9:00)
THE LOADING DOCK Open Mic w/ Blue Rail (7:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE Eagle Pritchard Murray, MC Overlord (10:00)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Phil Brown (6:00)
MEAN-EYED CAT Reid Wilson & His So-Called Friends (8:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL LC Rocks
MOHAWK Twin Blades, Monument to No One, Super Lite Bike, War Against Sleep
MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)
NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Dallas Seely
ONE 2 ONE BAR Ray Primm, Alex Henley (8:00)
THE PARISH Wild Light, Tapes 'n Tapes
THE PARLOR Esmerelda Strange, Wino Vino (9:00)
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Open Mic (7:30)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Paul Logan, Thrillbills

RED 7 Cattle Decapitation
RED FEZ DJ Rapid Ric, Mike Maven & the Good Life (8:30)
RILEY'S TAVERN Our Favorite Colors
SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00), Patrice Pike, Joy Davis, Uncle Lucius, Dustin Welch (8:00)
SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN JWW & the Prospectors, Greg Garing (9:00)
SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Zee Rock, Dale Spaulding (7:30)
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Strippers Lie
SPEAKEASY J.J. Usher (9:30)
STUBB'S Charlie Mars Band, Griffin House
T.C.'S LOUNGE Leeann Atherton's Blues (10:00)
TINIEST BAR IN TEXAS Baker Hotel (8:00)
TRIPLE CROWN R.C. Banks, Focus Group, Falcon Buddies
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WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN The Hudsons (7:00)
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STUBB'S
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Free Friday Super Buffet WITH THIS AD BEFORE NOON
Late Night Menu 10PM-1AM
1/2 lb Steak + Fries \$5
HALF POUND SIRLOIN GRILLED TO ORDER AND FRESH FRENCH FRIES
Buffalo Wings \$5
SPICY CHICK WINGS SERVED WITH RANCH DRESSING
Chicken Nachos \$5
FAJITA CHICKEN ON OUR PILED HIGH BEAN AND CHEESE NACHOS
Cheeseburger + Fries \$5
1/3 POUND GROUND SIRLOIN GRILLED TO ORDER WITH ALL THE FIXINGS
Breakfast Tacos \$5
THREE EGG TACOS, ONE WITH BACON, ONE WITH POTATO AND ONE WITH CHORIZO. ANY COMBINATION. SALSA ON THE SIDE.

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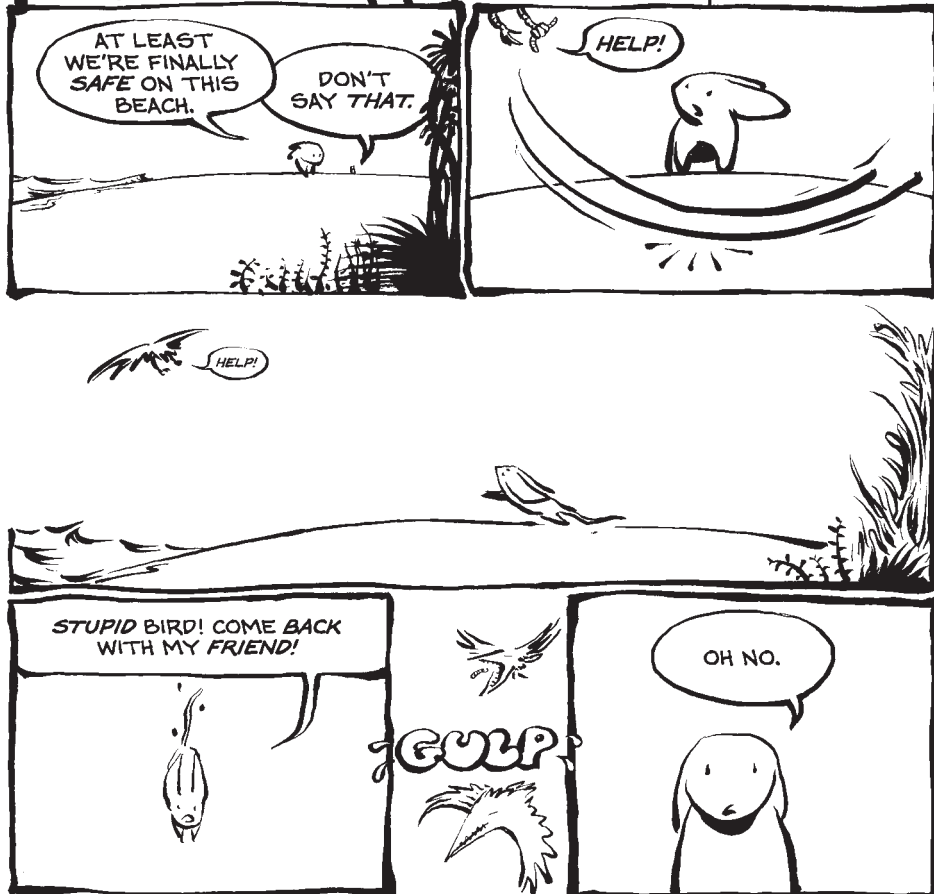
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How to Be Happy

UGLY ISLAND
4 OF 8

by Shannon Wheeler



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eyebeam

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MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



2009 has been designated as the International Year of Astronomy.

Gen. George S. Patton survived two world wars, three battle wounds, and many narrow escapes in battle. He died in a car crash.

Judge Roy Bean's first act in judicial office was to shoot up the saloon of a Jewish competitor.

The late Patrick McGooohan was born in Astoria, Queens, New York City, the son of Irish immigrants.

The British group the Lord's Witnesses believed the Bible contains codes that predicted the world was supposed to have ended March 21, 2008.

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

jobs

administrative/office

OFFICE MANAGER Appraisal company needs office manager for up to 35 hours per week. Must have knowledge of Microsoft Office. Schedule can be flexible for students. Send resume to orders@titanvaluation.com.

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ALL Hair Stylist, Nail tech, Massage Therapist Full-time or Part-time. Between UT and Capitol. Call Mary 477-7068

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**WK 451-6267 or
HM 451-1629**

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STYLISTS OR NAIL TECH Is your salon slow or closing? We have been leasing to salon pros for 20 years. Beauty Store Salon & Spa in the Arboretum area has leasing opportunities for independent contractors. If you are a hairdresser or nail tech with a clientele, but room for walk-ins, you should check out our new salon on Hwy 183. High traffic location with great visibility. Plenty of parking, your clients will love it. No long term contract, low weekly rent, 3 weeks rent free. Call Darryl @ 619-4246

education/schools/training

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general

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**\$400 SIGN ON
BONUS after
6 months!**

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Call Dana @ 1-800-867-0047. Apply in person at 1106 Clayton Lane, Suite 250W. Fax resume to 512-338-1555

Email to dmcbride@empowermentoptions.com

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hospitality

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research study

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Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin are conducting a treatment study for women with a history of sexual abuse who are experiencing sexual difficulties. Treatment is free of charge, and compensation for time and travel is provided. The study involves answering questions and writing about personal experiences, including sexual behavior. If you have a history of sexual abuse and it has affected your sexuality you may qualify.

For more info, please call

(512) 232-4805

All calls are confidential.

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classifieds and post your ad for FREE. Make it stand out with pictures! Highlight it by making it a featured ad! You can even run it in print! Ads run online for 30 days, and are posted immediately. After all, immediate gratification takes too long!

retail

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SALES ASSOCIATE Emerald's is a leading edge boutique that emphasizes exceptional service. We are currently looking for a full time sales associate who is bright, smart and creative with a knowledge and love of retail. Store hours are M-Sat 11am to 7pm & Sun 12pm to 7pm. This position pays \$12-\$15 per hour commensurate with your experience. Please respond with a 200 word communication regarding your interest in this position to emeralds.mail@gmail.com or apply in person at 624 N. Lamar.

SUPERVISOR The ACC Bookstore is looking for an energetic person with a positive attitude to fill a full time, salaried position as supervisor at our Cypress Creek Store. Applicants must have 1 year retail and cash handling experience, be service oriented, detailed and organized. High School diploma or equivalent needed.

Apply at 817 W. 12th St. or send a resume to SM174@bncollege.com

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sales/marketing/advertising

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this is the place!

We believe in Working Hard in a Fast Paced Environment. The environment demands excellent sales skills, high integrity, self-motivation and multi-tasking skill set. CSR \$10/hr candidate must be

able to respond positively in a high-call-volume environment. Sales B2B Analog to Digital television, Contract Work, South Austin on Bus Line.

Send your resume to:
hr@satcountry.com

PLEASE check your ad for accuracy the first time it runs.

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Corrections must be submitted by Tuesday, 1pm.

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Send your resume to
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writing/editing

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Tired of the daily grind? The rat race? Working for the man? Well, we can't help you with that ... but we can help you find a job where they have casual Fridays. Austin Chronicle Employment section. It's a start.

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Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. The eight-week program (June 21 - Aug. 16, 2009) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in alt-weekly style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid \$3,000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and an application visit <http://altjournalism.org>. You may also email us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 13, 2009. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN)

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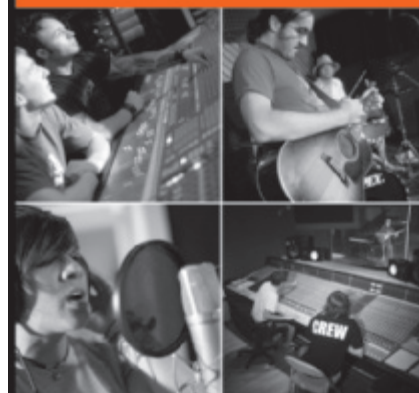
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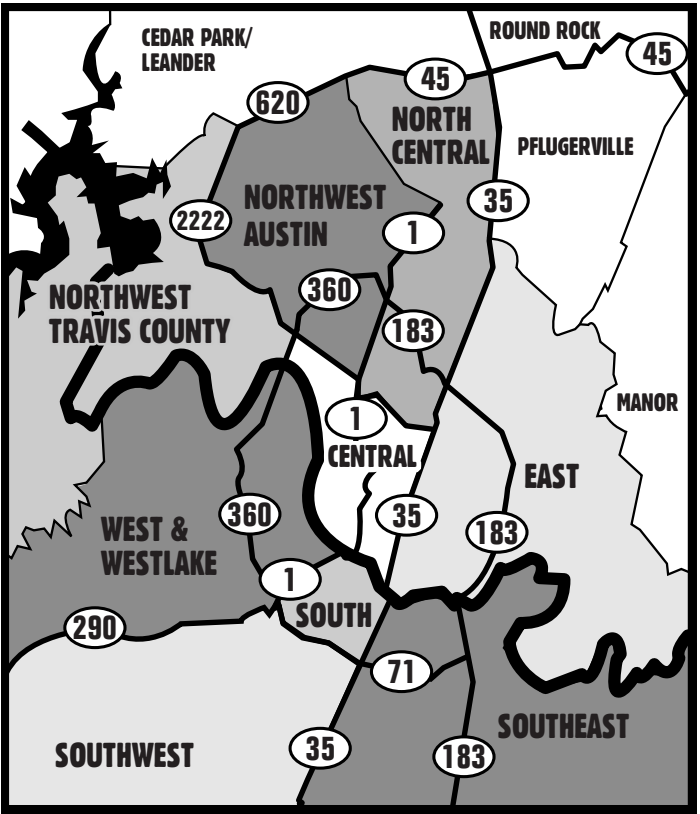
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CENTRAL Off Enfield - Unique 2/1 4-plex built around private courtyards, clay tile throughout, fireplace, CA/CH, gas/water paid, quiet neighbors, pet friendly! NO W/D connections. \$1050. 1603 Woodlawn. Matthews Properties

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CENTRAL Travis Heights Duplex for Lease. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1 carport. AC/CH, all appliances, fans, satellite TV, & Washer/Dryer included. No smoking, no pets, references, deposit, lease. Available 03/01/09. (512)416-8613.

CENTRAL Tarrytown - gigantic 1/1's in 4-plex, hardwoods, large common yard area for gardens or just relaxing under the trees, windows everywhere, large kitchen, NO W/D connections, window a/c's. Cats welcome - NO dogs! \$875. 2304 Enfield. Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

CENTRAL Here it is! Adorable, spacious 1/1 duplex, HARDWOODS, shared fenced yard (NO dogs-NO exceptions!), lots of windows, covered parking. No indoor smoking or W/D conn. VERY quiet neighbors! \$875. 1717 Palma Plaza. Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

CENTRAL 9424 Hunters Trace, 3/2, tile and carpet floors, 2 car garage w/ laundry room, spacious covered back porch, \$1,000. Beck & Co.(512) 474-1470 brad@beckandco.com

CENTRAL Renovated like new 1930's home with original details and modern style close to downtown/Zilker 3 bed/2bath/2 liv.2004 Kinney \$2,500 cats OK. www.smagula.net/kinney Call Virginia Ivey, Realtor 447-3336.

CENTRAL Northcross area - 3/2 House w/ Garage, CACH, Fireplace, W/D conn, Fenced yard. \$1,200. 451-0414.

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SOUTH CENTRAL Travis Heights, 1013 Bonham Terrace, lower 1/2 of Duplex. Hardwood Floors, CA/CH, 2-1 with w/d conn. \$1100, Available mid January. Call Cindy, Lanier Realty at 825-4663.

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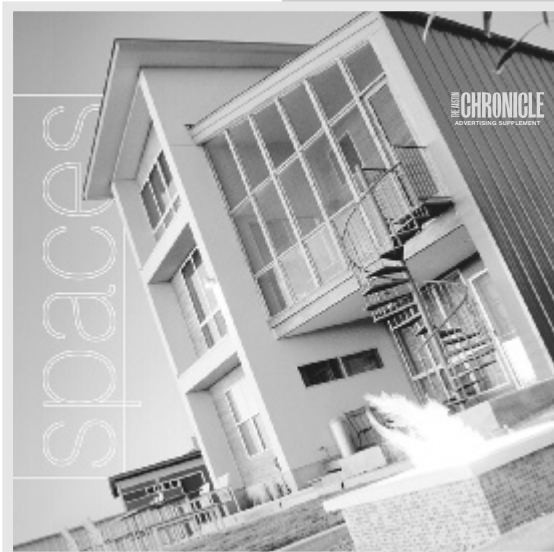
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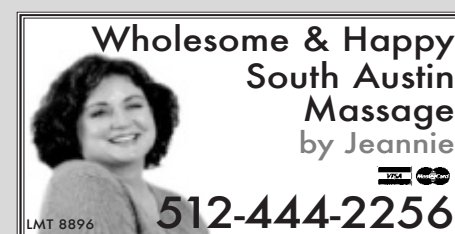
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Full Body Massage for the
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dio. 35/183. Call ahead to
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State of the Art Bodywork. 20
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enced and tailored to your in-
dividual needs. South Austin
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My Massage is Special
Because...my intention in
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Swedish Massage with an
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individual.

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neighborhood

activities

ARCHERY Junior Olympic
www.aajoad.com and Adult
Training Programs http://
archery.meetup.com/14/ (Never
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Archery instructors. All equip-
ment provided. Austin JOAD
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Transformational Workshop
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Conflict with that Other Parent!
Workshop Sat/Sun, Feb 7th,
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call 720-290-5715 for more
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Do this for your children and
yourself. Bring more peace into
your life.

READING GROUP Interested
in Shakespeare? Come join
Shakespeare Out Loud, a free
reading group that meets
between 4-6 p.m. on the 2nd
Sunday of each month. The
group meets at the Barnes and
Noble Booksellers in Westlake
(701 S. Capital of Texas Hwy.
#P860, Austin, TX 78746). Our
next meeting is Sunday, Febru-
ary 8, 2009 from 4 to 6 p.m. We
will start "The Tempest". No
preparation is necessary.

SELF REALIZATION Diamond
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Weekend: Live your life from
Strength, Compassion and
Curiosity! Feb 21 & 22 Austin,
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com/public_pres.shtml

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No luck with traditional
classes and workbooks?
Hate Studying? Don't have
much time? Think learning
can't be fun? Use your whole
brain by tapping into the
extraordinary mental
capacities we all have, but
seldom use, with the most
advanced and enjoyable
teaching and learning
method available today. 263-
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www.RapidSpanish.com**

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Spanish. This ongoing course
relies heavily on visual ma-
terial, word association and
games. http://
www.creative languagecenter
.com 453-8680.

events

ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW
February 7th & 8th; Zilker
Botanical Gardens, 10:00am -
5:00pm. (512) 413-3199

CASHFLOW GAMENIGHT
CASHFLOW 101 is an educa-
tional board game that teaches
accounting, finance, and
investing at the same time -
and makes learning fun! This is
a great time for both beginners
and those that have played
before. Join us Wednesday
evening February 11th at 7:00
PM. Have fun while learning
how to get out of the Rat Race.
It's free to play, however, with
limited seating, pre-register
now to reserve seats for you
and anyone you would like
to bring along to play. Simply
reply now with your name and
phone number or click on the
link below to reserve your seat
and for directions! http://www.
meetup.com/TexasInvestors/
calendar/9538752/

general

ADOPTION: A devoted
childless couple with puppy
wish to adopt a newborn. Love,
laughter, secure future await.
Elyse & Alan. 1-800-257-7553.
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adoption? Childless couple,
stay-at-home parent seeks to
adopt. Creative professionals

w/sense of humor, loving/
stable home. Financial
security. Expenses paid.
John & Tim. 1-877-481-9774
(AAN CAN)

ADOPTION PREGNANT?
CONSIDERING ADOPTION?
Talk with caring agency spe-
cializing in matching
Birthmothers with Families
nationwide. LIVING EXPENS-
ES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's
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**lost &
found**

LOST DOG BEANS - miss-
ing since 11/18/08. Spayed,
red-nose pit bull, golden tan
with white chest. Please call
512-947-0018 with any informa-
tion. \$1,000 REWARD

**legal
notices**

D-1-GV-07-000691

**CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF
SALE**

**REAL PROPERTY DELIN-
QUENT TAXES**

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order
Of Sale issued by the clerk of
the 353RD District Court of
Travis County, on the 18th
day of December, 2008 in a
certain cause numbered D-1-
GV-07-000691, wherein
Austin Community College,
Austin Independent School
District, Austin Independent
School District-County

Education District, City of
Austin, Travis County and
Travis County Healthcare
District are plaintiffs, and Don
Roberts (In Rem Only), City
of Austin (In Rem Only),
Travis County Tax Collector,
Austin Independent School
District, City of Austin, Travis
County and Austin
Community College (In Rem
Only) and City of Lago Vista,
Lago Vista Independent
School District, Travis County
and Travis County
Emergency Services District
No. 1 (In Rem Only) are
defendant(s), for the sum of
\$16,815.30 Dollars, together
with all costs of suit, that
being the amount of
judgment recovered by the
said plaintiffs, in the 353RD
District Court of Travis
County, Texas, on September
26, 2008.

I, on the 30th day of
December, 2008, at 5:00
o'clock P.M., have levied
upon, and will, on the 3rd
day of February, 2009 at
10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000
Guadalupe in the City of
Austin, within legal hours,
proceed to sell for cash to
the highest bidder, all the
rights, title and interest of
defendants in and to the
following described property,
levied upon as the property
of defendants, to-wit:

**A portion of Lots 18 and 19,
Block 2, S.I. Wilson
Subdivision (Oit. 13, Div. B),
Plat No. 3/178, Travis
County, Texas and being
more particularly described
as Tract 2 in Volume 10808,
Page 356 and Volume
11353, Page 238 of the deed
records of Travis County,
Texas.**

THE ABOVE SALE to be
made by me to satisfy the
above described judgment
for **\$16,815.30** Dollars in
favor of plaintiffs, together
with the costs of said suit,
and the proceeds applied to
the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 5th day
of January, 2009.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD,
THERE ARE NO
WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR
IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT
NOT LIMITED TO, THE
IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF
MERCHANTABILITY AND
FITNESS FOR A
PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
YOU BUY THE PROPERTY
"AS IS". BIDDERS ARE
FURTHER ADVISED THAT
PURCHASE OF THE
PROPERTY AT THIS
EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT
EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR
SECURITY INTERESTS ON
THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE
SIMPLY PURCHASING
WHATEVER INTEREST THE
DEBTOR HAS IN THE
PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE
ANY QUESTIONS, YOU
NEED TO CONSULT
COUNSEL OF YOUR
CHOICE.

**PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE
OF PUBLIC SALE** of the prop-
erty to satisfy landlord's lien.
Public auction will be held at
11:00am on Saturday, January
31, 2009 at 2220 East Riverside
Drive in Austin, Texas 78741.
Property will be sold to the
highest bidder for cash. Clean
up and removal is required.
Seller reserved the right to
remove property from sale.
Property includes contents of
space of the following tenants:
Truan, Carlos: two televisions,
table set, wooden rocking
horse, dolly, water stand, desk,
leather chair, tires, rims. Truan,
Carlos: mattresses, couches,
furniture, boxes, misc.Sanchez,
Marco Antonio:television, com-
puter monitor and hard drive,
keyboard, speakers. Thomas,
Laquindra Lennett: baby
clothes car stereo, baby stroller,
car seat. Michael, Blankenship
Aaron:muffler, misc. boxes,
stool, large clothing storage
bag. Reese, Jerry Dwayne: red
car. Lewis II,Connally:tires,

clothing, speakers, rims, totes.
Gallardo, Petra Guadalupe:
household items. Jack, Gon-
zales Jeffrey: tires. Olivares,
Joey: table set, mattresses,
microwave, bed frame, kitchen
appliances. Brown, Constance
Deanna: household items.
Sattiewhite, Virginia: televisin,
baby stroller, shelf, toys. Please
contact Corina Zepeda at
512-326-3188 American Mini
Storage 2220 East Riverside
Drive Austin, Texas 78741

D-1-GV-07-000969

**CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF
SALE**

**REAL PROPERTY DELIN-
QUENT TAXES**

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order
Of Sale issued by the clerk of
the 250th District Court of
Travis County, on the 18th
day of December, 2008 in a
certain cause numbered D-1-
GV-07-000969, wherein Aus-

tin Community College, Del
Valle Independent School
District, Travis County Em-
ergency Services District No.
11, Travis County and Travis
County Hospital District n/k/a
Travis County Healthcare
District are plaintiffs, and
Claudio Cornejo, Maria Flores
a/k/a Maria R. Flores, Cana-
rios, Inc., City of Austin (In
Rem Only), Travis Paving &
Excavation Company, Inc. (In
Rem Only), RTI Hot Mix, Ltd.
(In Rem Only), Instel Steel
Distributors, LP (In Rem
Only), J M Electronics Engi-
neering, Inc. (In Rem Only),
Texas Concrete Materials,
Ltd. (In Rem Only), IESI-Aus-
tin (In Rem Only) and United
States of America (In Rem
Only) are defendant(s), in fa-
vor of said plaintiffs, for the
sum of **\$358,187.03** Dollars,
together with all costs of suit,
that being the amount of
judgment recovered by the
said plaintiffs, in the 250th
District Court of Travis
County, Texas, on May 9,
2008.

I, on the 30th day of Decem-
ber, 2008, at 5:00 o'clock
P.M., have levied upon, and
will, on the 3rd day of Febru-
ary, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock,
A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in
the City of Austin, within legal
hours, proceed to sell for
cash to the highest bidder,
all the rights, title and interest
of defendants in and to the
following described property,
levied upon as the property
of defendants, to-wit:

**Lot 1, Chapas County
Acres, Plat No. 77/163 and a
5.51 acre tract, a 15.039
acre tract and a 1.059 acre
tract out of the Guillermo
Nunez Survey 502, Travis
County, Texas and being
more particularly described
in document number
2004156970 and
2005088271 of the deed
records of Travis County,
Texas.**

THE ABOVE SALE to be
made by me to satisfy the
above described judgment
for **\$358,187.03** Dollars in fa-
vor of plaintiffs, together with
the costs of said suit, and the
proceeds applied to the sat-
isfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 5th day
of January, 2009.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD,
THERE ARE NO WARRANT-
TIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED,
INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIM-
ITED TO, THE IMPLIED WAR-
RANTIES OF MERCHANT-
ABILITY AND FITNESS FOR
A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
YOU BUY THE PROPERTY
"AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FUR-
THER ADVISED THAT PUR-
CHASE OF THE PROPERTY
AT THIS EXECUTION SALE
MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY
LIENS OR SECURITY INTER-
ESTS ON THE PROPERTY.
YOU ARE SIMPLY PUR-
CHASING WHATEVER
INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS
IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU
HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU
NEED TO CONSULT COUN-
SEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

D-1-GV-07-001046

**CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF
SALE**

**REAL PROPERTY DELIN-
QUENT TAXES**

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order
Of Sale issued by the clerk of
the 261st District Court of
Travis County, on the 24th
day of December, 2008 in a
certain cause numbered D-1-
GV-07-001046, wherein Aus-
tin Community College, Del
Valle Independent School
District, City of Austin, Travis
County and Travis County
Healthcare District are plain-
tiffs, and Michael Jaurigue,
Alexandra Tieu, and Mort-
gage Electronic Registration
Systems, Inc. as nominee for
Countrywide Home Loans,
Inc. (In Rem Only) are
defendant(s), in favor of said
plaintiffs, for the following
sums: **Billing # 789969 =
\$5,250.27, Billing # 789971
= \$4,334.00 and Billing #
789972 = \$4,927.94** Dollars,
together with all costs of suit,
that being the amount of
judgment recovered by the
said plaintiffs, in the 261st
District Court of Travis
County, Texas, on October
26, 2007.

I, on the 30th day of Decem-
ber, 2008, at 5:00 o'clock
P.M., have levied upon, and
will, on the 3rd day of Febru-
ary, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock,
A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in
the City of Austin, within legal
hours, proceed to sell for
cash to the highest bidder,
all the rights, title and interest
of defendants in and to the
following described property,
levied upon as the property
of defendants, to-wit:

BILLING NO.: 789969

**Unit 1A, Fairway Street
Condominiums, Condo.
Decl. 2005136721, Travis
County, Texas, and being
more particularly described
in Document No.
2005230097 of the Deed
Records of Travis County,
Texas**

BILLING NO.: 789971

**Unit 2A, Fairway Street
Condominiums, Condo.
Decl. 2005136721, Travis
County, Texas, and being
more particularly described
in Document No.
2005230106 of the Deed
Records of Travis County,
Texas**

BILLING NO.: 789972

**Unit 2B, Fairway Street
Condominiums, Condo.
Decl. 2005136721, Travis
County, Texas, and being
more particularly described
in Document No.
2006043897 of the Deed
Records of Travis County,
Texas**

THE ABOVE SALE to be
made by me to satisfy the
above described judgment
for the following sums: **Bil-
ling # 789969 = \$5,250.27,
Billing # 789971 = \$4,334.00
and Billing # 789972 =
\$4,927.94** Dollars in favor of
plaintiffs, together with the
costs of said suit, and the
proceeds applied to the sat-
isfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 5th day
of January, 2009.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD,
THERE ARE NO WARRANT-
TIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED,
INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIM-
ITED TO, THE IMPLIED WAR-
RANTIES OF MERCHANT-
ABILITY AND FITNESS FOR
A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
YOU BUY THE PROPERTY
"AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FUR-
THER ADVISED THAT PUR-
CHASE OF THE PROPERTY
AT THIS EXECUTION SALE
MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY
LIENS OR SECURITY INTER-
ESTS ON THE PROPERTY.
YOU ARE SIMPLY PUR-
CHASING WHATEVER
INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS
IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU
HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU
NEED TO CONSULT COUN-
SEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

D-1-GV-07-002445

**CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF
SALE**

**REAL PROPERTY DELIN-
QUENT TAXES**

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order
Of Sale issued by the clerk of
the 53RD District Court of
Travis County, on the 2nd
day of January, 2009 in a
certain cause numbered D-1-
GV-07-002445, wherein Aus-
tin Community College, Aus-
tin Independent School Dis-
trict, City of Austin, Travis
County and Travis County
Healthcare District are plain-
tiffs, and John D. Majors, if
alive and if deceased, the
unknown owners, heirs, as-
signs and successors of the
Estate of John D. Majors and
City of Austin (In Rem Only)
are defendant(s), in favor of
said plaintiffs, for the sum of
\$8,621.94 Dollars, together
with all costs of suit, that be-
ing the amount of judgment
recovered by the said plain-
tiffs, in the 53RD District
Court of Travis County, Tex-
as, on August 25, 2008.

I, on the 2nd day of January,
2009, at 5:00 o'clock P.M.,
have levied upon, and will,
on the 3rd day of February,
2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M.,
at 1000 Guadalupe in the
City of Austin, within legal
hours, proceed to sell for
cash to the highest bidder,
all the rights, title and interest
of defendants in and to the
following described property,
levied upon as the property
of defendants, to-wit:

**1 acre out of the J.C.
Tannehill Survey 29, Being
a portion as described in
Volume 6131, Page 1058
and being more fully de-
scribed in the attached par-
cel map of the deed records
of Travis County, Texas.**

THE ABOVE SALE to be
made by me to satisfy the
above described judgment
for **\$8,621.94** Dollars in favor
of plaintiffs, together with the
costs of said suit, and the
proceeds applied to the sat-
isfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 5th day
of January, 2009.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD,
THERE ARE NO WARRANT-
TIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED,
INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIM-
ITED TO, THE IMPLIED WAR-
RANTIES OF MERCHANT-
ABILITY AND FITNESS FOR
A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
YOU BUY THE PROPERTY
"AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FUR-
THER ADVISED THAT PUR-
CHASE OF THE PROPERTY
AT THIS EXECUTION SALE
MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY
LIENS OR SECURITY INTER-
ESTS ON THE PROPERTY.
YOU ARE SIMPLY PUR-
CHASING WHATEVER
INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS
IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU
HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU
NEED TO CONSULT COUN-
SEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

D-1-GV-08-000149

**CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF
SALE**

**REAL PROPERTY DELIN-
QUENT TAXES**

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order
Of Sale issued by the clerk of
the 200TH District Court of
Travis County, on the 7th day
of December, 2008 in a cer-
tain cause numbered D-1-
GV-08-000149, wherein Plain-
tiff is Round Rock Independ-
ent School District and Inter-
venor is Travis County, and
Jacqueline Maze n/k/a Jac-
queline Maze Moreno and
Juan Moreno a/k/a Juan Pa-
blo Moreno are defendant(s),
in favor of said plaintiff and
intervenor, for the sum of
\$13,079.94 Dollars, together
with all costs of suit, that be-
ing the amount of judgment
recovered by the said plain-
tiffs, in the 200TH District
Court of Travis County, Tex-
as, on April 28, 2008.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2008, at 5:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of February, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 8, Block D, Wells Branch, Phase A, Section 3, Travis County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof, recorded in Volume 81, Page 203, Map Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$13,079.94** Dollars in favor of plaintiff and intervenor, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 5th day of January, 2009.
BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

NOTICE Notice to All Persons Having Claims Against the Estate of Robert William Schmitt, Deceased Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Robert William Schmitt, Deceased, were issued on December 30, 2008, in Cause No. 89,738 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

The post office address for mailing of claims is:

Susan Jane Schmitt, Executor
c/o Rash, Chapman, Schreiber & Porter, L.L.P.

2112 Rio Grande Street
Austin, Texas 78705
(512) 477-7543 (PHONE)
(512) 474-0954 (FAX)

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 13th day of January, 2009.

By: Mark B. Schreiber
Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

2001 LINCOLN
1LNHM87A11Y707496
1995 KIA
KNAFA1218S5220556
1994 FORD
1FMCA11U4RZA43505

AUCTION January 30, 2009 @ 6:00 A.M.
ADVANCED TOWING & RECOVERY
1810 BENCH MARK DR
AUSTIN, TX 78728
(512) 402-0024

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 30 DAYS.

GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTH-SIDE WRECKER, 8200 S CONGRESS, AUSTIN, TX. 78745.

1992 CADILLAC
1G6CD53B6N4252673

1989 CHEVY VAN
2GCGG53J7K4139870

1983 LINCOLN
1MRBP99FDY673745

2002 CHEVY
1GNDX03EX2D190719

1975 CHEVY BLAZER
CKY185F127113

1989 CHEVY
1G1LV14W2KY103646

2006 MOPED
LF370EF0960078169

MINI BIKE NO VIN #

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Of the property to satisfy landlord's lien. **Sale is 3:00 pm, January. 24, 2008 at 1905 E William Cannon Dr. Austin, Texas.** Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Clean up and removal is required. Seller reserves the right to remove property from sale. Property included contents of space of the following tenants: Olga Olascoaga-fridge, magic chef oven, washer or dryer, a c unit, air purifier, table, TV, weed eater, lawn mower. Ray Sepeda Jr. - weights, mirror, lawn mower, fridge, vacuum, dresser, loveseat, recliner, sporting goods, camping gear, ice chest, DVD Player. Beatrice Castillo- mini bikes, bikes, ladder, washer & dryer, table, beds, lawn. Dean Calhoun- step ladder, TV, weight bench, tent, iron board, kids toys. Cristobal Salinas- Nintendo, X-Mas Décor, microwave, vacuum, mini fridge, tools, small dresser. Armando Merjil-bed, picture frames, large trash can filled with shoes, dresser, books. Edith Celino-Manikins, speaker boxes and speaker system, misc. tubs. Tamara Thompson- Dresser, drums, computer monitors, vacuum, bench set, end tables, box with toys. Yolanda Reyes- two 1 door fridges, industrial dolly, boxes, clothes. Contact Gracie or David Jackson, 512-443-8800 at

American Mini Storage
1905 E William Cannon, Austin, Texas

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale is 9:30am Feb. 5, 2009. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash at the time of auction. Cleanup and removal deposit may be required. Seller reserves right to withdraw property from sale or not accept any bidder. Property will be sold in entire contents of each individual storage unit. Property includes contents of spaces of following tenants: Carl D. Leblanc, Patrick Y. Davis, Richard A. McGhie, Demetrious Y. Thomas, Esequiel Quinines R. Reyes, Chris R. Martin, Mary E. Lucio, Algie Bunton, and Brett Mugrage. Property being sold includes the following: clothing, toys, exercise equipment, video games, furniture, small electronics, T.V.'s, fishing gear, bicycles, shotgun, tires, misc. computer parts and holiday decoration items. Contact Lockaway Storage 9910 Slaughter Creek Dr., Austin, TX, 78748.
512-282-7807

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
PS Orangeco, Inc. hereby gives notice that the property generally described below is being sold to satisfy a Landlord's Lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, at the time and place indicated below, and on the

following terms: All property generally described below will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for cash, or credit cards, NO CHECKS, with payment to be made at the time of the sale. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any item or items from the sale. The property will be sold on the 18th of February 2009 on or about the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified: NO CHILDREN PLEASE.

Wednesday, February 18th 2009.

9:00 a.m. Public Storage @9814 Westgate Blvd, Austin, TX 78748

0443 ERNEST QADIMASIL, BED, BOXES RIMS

0458 ISIDRO CISNEROS, CHAIR, BED, BOXES

0521 LILLIE ANN ALCALA, ARMOIRE, TABLE, DRESSER

9:30a.m. Public Storage @ 7200 S 1st Street, Austin, TX 78745

A006 LEENAYIA MARTINEZ, DRESSER, TABLE, CRIB

B028 CORRIN SLATER, ARMOIRE, TRUCK TOOL BOX

B031 CYNTHIA LOPEZ, HAND DOLLY, TOOLS, LADDER

K288 ERIC REYNA, HAND DOLLY, SOFA, CHAIR

V698 RAMON AQUINO, ENTERTAINMENT CTR, BOXES, TOTES

V727 JESUS CAZARES, TABLE, TOTES, TOYS

W819 CYNTHIA KERR, BED, TABLE, CHAIR

10:15 a.m. Public Storage @ 7112 S Congress, Austin, TX 78745

A4 NEDRA JOHNSON, TV, DRESSER, TABLE

B4E STEFANIE MIRELES, CHAIR, BOXES, TV

C15 VICKY LOURO-ANGELEZ, TABLE, BOXES, FILING CABINET

D1 SESAR MARTINEZ, BOX SPRING, MATTRESS

E23 CHALEO GAMBOA, TOOLS, WASHER, DRYER

F3 DIANA GUZMAN, TRUNK, BAGS, TOTES

F4 ROBERT RENTERIA, COMPUTER, LAMP, BOXES

G14 CHRISTIAN SABON, HAND DOLLY, YARD TOOLS, SOFA

G20 ROXANNE BARKER, DRESSER, WASHER, DRYER

J19 DELMA AGUIRRE, TOOL BOX, LAWN EQUIPMENT, TABLE

K36 RAUL GARZA, BOOKCASE, BAGS, CHAIR

L55 LINDA CHANDLER, BED, STOVE, BOXES

L81 ANN HARTMAN, WHEELBARROW, TABLE, DRESSER

L82 LORENZO BANKS, COMPUTER, CHAIR, FISH TANK

11:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 4202 Santiago, Austin, TX 78745

331 VANESSA STANDBERRY, DRESSER, TABLE, BOXES

351 CLINT BAKER, BOXES, SUITCASE, TOTES

548 CHRIS DESANTIAGO, TABLE, DRESSER, BOXES

724 DALIA RAMOS, STEREO, TABLE, CHAIR

769 ARLENE GALVAN, BBO, LAWN FURNITURE, CHAIR

11:30 a.m. Public Storage @ 2301 E Ben White, Austin, TX 78741

2030 OLIVIA ARCHBOLD, SOFA, HAND DOLLY, BOXES

2138 APRIL KING, TABLE, BOXES, CLOTHING

3037 TERRY TAYLOR, DESK, CHAIR, BOXES

12:00 p.m. Public Storage @ 5016 E Ben White, Austin, TX 78741

B14 DORETHA KING, BEDS, BOXES, MONITOR

C54 REBECCA COLEMAN, COMPUTER, BOXES, AIR COMPRESSOR

C115 RICHARD SANCHEZ, DRESSER, TABLE, BED

C122 THOMAS LOERA, BED, BOXES, TRUCK SEAT

C229 BRANDON GREEN, BAGS, TOTES

C241 SAMANTAH LOVATO, BAGS, CLOTHING

C279 IVAN ALVAREZ, TABLE, TOTES, BOXES

C285 NICOLAS GUERRA, SPEAKERS, SOFA, TABLE

C311 SANDRA COTTON, CHAIR, BOOKCASE, BOXES

C314 MARK MORENO, TABLE, BOXES, TOTES

C328 BONITA BOTELLO, CHAIR, BOXES, WEIGHTS

12:30 p.m. Public Storage @ 2121 S IH 35, Austin, TX 78741

1008 SHAWN LLOYD, BOXES, FISH TANK, SUITCASE

2046 BRANDON KING, BED, BOXES, TABLE

2089 YVONNE LAFUENTE, STEREO, DRESSER, TABLE

2120 KALI GRIFFIN, TABLE, CHAIR, DRESSER

3099 DENNIS COX, CHAIR, BOXES, LOVE SEAT

3121 AIR QUALITY SOLUTIONS, LAWNMOWER, SHELVING, LADDER

3124 RICHARD SMITH, WASHER, DRYER, DESK

4080 TALIA BOCANEGRA, TV, WASHER, DRYER

4109 DANA LIMON, STEREO, BOXES, BAGS

1:00 p.m. Public Storage @ 5220 US 290W, Austin, TX 78735

2148 THE CHURCH AT THE WELL, TABLE, SPEAKERS, CHAIRS

2172 SHELBY CHARLES, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

3110 DUSTIN JONES, DRESSER, SOFA, STEREO

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Delinquent Tenants

PS Orangeco, Inc. hereby gives notice that the property generally described below is being sold to satisfy a Landlord's Lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, at the time and place indicated below, and on the following terms: All property generally described below will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for cash, or credit cards, NO CHECKS, with payment to be made at the time of the sale. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any item or items from the sale. The property will be sold on the

19th & 20th of February 2009 on or about the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified: NO CHILDREN PLEASE.

Thursday February 19th 2009

9:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 1033 E 41st Street, Austin, TX 78751

4154 TORIE DANIELS, BOXES, TOTES, MICROWAVE

4165 CLINT WHITE, SOFA, CLOTHING, BAGS

5045 JASON MOORE, TV, BOXES, BOOKCASE

9:30am Public Storage @ 10001 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753

1038 Juan Tijerina, Bags, boxes, totes

3003 Maryann Gillespie, Boxes, bags, totes

3030 Maria Esparza, Boxes, Totes, Furniture

5044 Margarita Mendez, Boxes, bags, totes

8007 Jason Villareal, All items in unit

10:00am Public Storage @ 10100 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753

B016 Natalie Patterson, Bags, boxes, clothing

B069 Anna Rodriguez, Bed, Boxes, Microwave

B114 Elhma Sanchez, Bed, Chest of Drawers, Ice chest

C012 Alpha Oumar Ball, Chair, Couch, Lamp

C025 Belton Osborn, Boxes, totes, bags

D035 Kateri Chaurat-Guzman, Bed, Dresser, TV

D064 Jorge Ramiro Valdes, Bicycle, TV

D066 Helen Fearce, Chair, clothing, couch

E064 Teresa M Ramirez, Bed, boxes, stereo

10:30am Public Storage @ 9377 Reinli, Austin, TX., 78751

110 Nash Franson, boxes, totes, stereo

164 Richard Dunnuck, all items in unit

182 Nash Franson, Boxes, bags, bicycle

541 Jacob Barrientes, Boxes, totes, furniture

743 Joanique Ann Garcia, Boxes, chair, lamp

934 Spencer Masslieno-Al-len, Desk, coffee table, vacuum

11:00am Public Storage @ 8101 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

210 Magdalen Mills, Bags, Bed, clothing

221 Gabriela Barrera, Bags, bed, dresser

517 Iris George, Bags, Bed, clothing, couch

1022 Cortez Perkins, Bags, bed, totes

1111 David Buckingham, Chair, couch, boxes

1223 Mary Luna, Bags, bed, boxes

1341 Nicholas Luna, All items in unit

1416 McArthur Small, All items in unit

3160 Michael Smith, All items in unit

N1225 Todd Readodaux, Bags, bed, boxes

N1285 Mailing Williams-Davis, All items in unit

PUBLIC NOTICE

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT BOARD OF MANAGERS



Travis County is seeking candidates to serve on the Board of Managers (The Board) of the Travis County Healthcare District. The Healthcare District was created by an affirmative vote of Travis County voters

on May 15, 2004. Four positions are appointed by Travis County, four by the City of Austin, and a consensus candidate is jointly appointed by the Commissioners Court and Austin City Council.

These nine appointees serve as the Board of Managers and organize, plan, and supervise the Travis County Healthcare District (TCHD).

The Travis County Commissioners Court seeks individual(s) to represent all the stakeholders of the County to achieve geographic, gender, and constituent diversity on the Board in order to reflect the overall diversity of the County. The board must provide exceptional vision, possess excellent business and administrative skills, and be active in community affairs.

More detailed information, the Application, and Disclosure forms are available through the "Call for Nominations" link on the Travis County web site at www.co.travis.tx.us.

THE COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKET MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 PM, JANUARY 30, 2009.

Submit application packets by mail to:
Sherri E. Fleming, Executive Manager
Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, TX 78767

By e-mail to: sherri.fleming@co.travis.tx.us.

Hand-delivered to: Sherri E. Fleming, Executive Manager
Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service
100 N. I.H. 35
Austin, TX, 78701

the COMMON LAW

by Luke Ellis

The material in this column is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute, nor is it a substitute for, legal advice. For advice on your specific facts and circumstances, consult a licensed attorney.

CONSIDER AN LLC?

My friend and I plan to start a business selling products online. We are looking into options to create a formal business entity but are not sure whether partnership or corporation is the way to go. Any ideas?

The circumstances and desired outcomes of each new business will dictate which business structure is most appropriate. As last week's column discussed, general partnerships and corporations each offer their own specific benefits and drawbacks.

Partnerships are easy to form, and the partners typically report the business profits and losses on their personal tax returns. Unfortunately, general partners are personally liable for the debts and obligations of the partnership, which means you can be sued personally in your role as general partner. Alternatively, creating a corporation provides protection from personal liability (the corporation is recognized as a separate legal entity liable for its own debts and obligations). But corporations are much more difficult to form and are taxed directly, which can create a lengthy list of tax issues that can be unfavorable.

Another option you should investigate is forming a limited liability company. An LLC is neither a corporation nor partnership; rather, it is a distinct type of entity that shares the characteristics and powers of a corporation and a partnership. For example, an LLC provides the same protection from personal liability as a corporation. But unlike a corporation, an LLC is not always required to be a separate tax entity. This means the LLC can serve as a "pass-through entity" so that LLC owners report their business profits or losses on their personal tax returns, similar to a general partnership. In some situations, LLCs offer additional tax advantages, including the possibility of more deductions. Forming an LLC, which requires filing with the Texas Secretary of State's office, is more difficult than a general partnership, but less complicated than forming a corporation.

You should investigate whether an LLC is right for your new business. **Be sure to talk to a lawyer and accountant to learn what option is best for your new business!** Read next week's "The Common Law" to learn the basic steps to forming an LLC.

Please submit column suggestions, questions, and comments to thecommonlaw@austinchronicle.com. Submission of potential topics does not create an attorney-client relationship, and any information submitted is subject to being included in future columns.

car talk

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

MAKING SENSE OF OIL DESIGNATIONS

Dear Tom and Ray:

When purchasing oil, the oil has a quality level (API Service). There are many different categories/types, such as SG/CD, SE, SM, SA, SB, SC, SE, to list a few. Today when I purchased oil, all the available viscosities and brands were SM. I have a 1993 Ford van with a 4.9-liter, six-cylinder engine. The owner's manual recommends 10w-30 SG/CD, which I could not find. What do all these types mean? Do I need to be concerned?

— Dave

RAY: No, you don't need to be concerned, Dave. The letter combinations are performance ratings from the American Petroleum Institute or API. When your van was manufactured, the top-of-the-line motor oil was rated SG, so that's what Ford called for.

TOM: Well, since then, oils have continued to improve. They now last longer, lubricate better, and hold more contaminants in suspension. And as oils have gotten better, they've been given higher designations. SH replaced SG in the top spot. Then came SI, SJ, SK and SL.

RAY: And now the best-performing oil is SM. Not to be confused with tying people up and whipping them, which I'm quite sure API no longer endorses.

TOM: So, since your vehicle calls for SG or better, your engine can run on anything from SG through SM.

RAY: By the way, oil designations that start with the letter "S" are for gasoline engines, and those that start with "C" are for diesel engines. Those that start with EVOO are for salads and pasta.

* * *

Stop the madness! You can stop driving like a knucklehead, and you'll help your car in the process. Learn how your driving habits can harm your car in Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

* * *

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk website, www.cartalk.com.

Tune in to *Car Talk* each Saturday at 9am on



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continued legal notices

N2315 Tanya Walker, Boxes, clothing, suitcase
N2383 Annette Brooks, boxes, chair, couch
N3360 Stevin Woody, Desk, chair, stereo
12:00pm Public Storage @ 8525 N Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

A059 Tommy Thompson, Boxes, Dryer, washer
A100 Deryl Bunton, Bed, boxes, table
B019 Owen Summers, Couch, Table, chair
C011 Yvonne Carmean, All items in unit
C018 William Voges, All items in unit

D025 Albert Camacho, Boxes, Dresser, dryer
F001 Harold James Hopkins, Bags, boxes, toys
F025 Brian Dennis, Bicycle, bed, boxes

H010 Kimberly Glassford, Baby stroller, bed, desk
H050 Peter An Nguyen, Arcade console, casino table
J026 Roman Torres, Computer, refrigerator, stereo
J029 Terrance Isaac, Bed, dryer, washer

12:30pm Public Storage @ 8128 N Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

C054 Francis T. James, Boxes, boxes, chest of drawers
E091 Marvin Calhoun, Cabinet, chair stereo
E122 Anna Daniels, Bags, boxes, totes
E131 Zenda River, Bags, bed, boxes
G005 John Doud, boxes, ladder, shelving
G012 Johnathan Jones, Baby playpen, boxes, clothing
G024 Leon Curtis, Bags, bed chair

**Friday February 20th 2009
9:30am Public Storage @ 1517 Round Rock Ave., Round Rock, TX 78681**

4130 Robert Garcia, Bags, clothing, desk
5121 Nicole Kenney, Bed, boxes, clothing
51361 Magnetic Resonance Services, Bed, boxes, computer equipment
6117 Sharon Jones, Boxes, bags, totes
7110 Lisa Green, Boxes, bags, totes
8121 Alicia Komorowski, All items in unit
8122 Virginia Rosalez, All items in unit
9105 Belinda Reese, Boxes, bags, totes

10:00am Public Storage @ 13675 N US HWY 183 Austin, TX 78750

0106 Jeri Baylor, Bags, boxes, couch
0206 Christella Lozano-Rodriguez, Bar, bicycle, boxes
0332 Shirley Townes, Bags, boxes, chair
0601 Mike Calvert, Boxes, dryer, refrigerator

1202 Shirley Townes, bed, couch, love seat
10:30am Public Storage @ 12915 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78750

4033 Maria Margaret Valdez, Bed, chair, dryer
4067 Dana Gonzalez, Bags, beds, chair
C009 Al Thompson, Boxes, lawn equipment, sports equipment

11:00am Public Storage @ 10931 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759

2072 James Perry, 40 cases of soda
2226 Ron Isaacs, Boxes, bags, totes
2253 William Roddn, Computer
B017 Bonner Bankston, Bed, chair, couch

11:30am Public Storage @ 12318 N Mopac Expressway, Austin, TX 78758

A020 Joseph L Sutherland, bags, boxes, chair
A092 Craig English, Chair, couch, pictures
C318 Henry Rountree, Bed, table, tv
D482 Adam Garner, Boxes, chair, couch

D514 Grace Castro, Bed, couch, table
D517 Angela Pocoraba, boxes, desk, dryer

12:00pm Public Storage @ 9205 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78758

E067 Alfredo Bernal, Bed, couch, desk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, **Stor-A-Way** located at **309 South Bell, Cedar Park, Texas 78613**, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien.

The sale will begin at **10:00 am on February 10, 2009**. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and clean-up may be temporarily required. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from the sale. Property in each space may be sold item-by-item, in batches, or by the space. Property being sold includes contents in the spaces of the following tenants, with brief description of contents in each space.

B003 Jose M Martinez: plastic tubs, EZ Up gazebo, table, chairs, fax machine
B044 Stacy R Rogers: flower pots, outdoor garden items, chairs, camping items
C011 James Vavra: mattress, sofa, loveseat, clothes, TV, boxes

D004 David K Marbury: chest/trunk, drum, boxes, ice chest, printer

D007 Tim Kenner: boxes, chest, bookshelves

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MAURINE P. HAMILTON, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Maurine P. Hamilton, deceased, were issued on October 28, 2008 in Cause No. 89444 pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas to Alan L. Hamilton, as Independent Executor. The residence of the Independent Executor is in Austin, Travis County, Texas. The post office address is: Estate of Maurine P. Hamilton, c/o Wayne Gronquist, 1104 Nueces St., Austin, Texas 78701. All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Wayne Gronquist, 1104 Nueces St., Austin, Texas 78701, Attorney for the Estate.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Rubin

Martinez, Deceased, were issued on December 9, 2008, in Cause No. 89070, pending in the Probate Court No. ONE, Travis County, Texas, to: Alex Martinez.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the

time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: W. Michael Murray
Attorney at Law
13740 N. Highway 183
Building L, Suite 1
Austin, TX 78750
DATED the 15th day of January, 2009.

/s/ W. Michael Murray
Attorney for Alex Martinez
State Bar No.: 14729600
13740 N. Highway 183
Building L, Suite 1
Austin, TX 78750
Telephone: (512)336-9994
Facsimile: (512)336-9996

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary of the Estate of Gladys

Dawson Magee, a/k/a Gladys Dora Magee, Deceased, were issued on January 15, 2009 in Cause No. 89,826, pending in Travis County Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas to Linda Sue Magee, Independent Executor. All persons having claims against said Estate are required to present them to Richard Thormann, Attorney at Law, 805 West 10th Street, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78701 within the time prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Nadine B. Nelson, aka Nadine Blackman Nelson, aka Mary Nadine Blackman, aka Mary Nadine Nelson, Deceased, were issued on January 15, 2009, in Cause No. 89750, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Margaret J. Pearson.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Brad Wiewel
Attorney at Law
1601 Rio Grande St., Ste. 550
Austin, TX 78701
DATED the 15th day of January, 2009.

/s/ Candice H. Bocock
Attorney for Margaret J. Pearson

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Robert F. Pugh were issued on the 14th day of January, 2009 in Cause No. 89749, pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas to: Jean G. Pugh, Independent Executor of the Estate of Robert F. Pugh, Deceased.

The residence of the Independent Executor is: 2102 Cypress Point West, Austin, Texas 78746.

The mailing address is:

Estate of Robert F. Pugh, c/o: DANIEL M. LANEY, Attorney at Law, 1250 Capital of Texas Highway South, Building III, Suite 400 Cielo Center, Austin, Texas 78746.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 14th day of January, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
By: /s/ Daniel M. Laney
Attorney for the Estate
(512)329-2016
(512)329-2018 (fax)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Dependent Administration for the Estate of Edward James Nagy, Deceased, were issued on

Tuesday, January 13, 2009, in Cause No. 89612, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Christine Nagy.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Christine Nagy, representative, Estate of Edward James Nagy, Deceased

c/o Law Offices of Brooke Hardie
816 W 10th St.
Austin, Texas 78701

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1.USGA Golf Sand and Assorted Sands, B090076-NB
Opens: **BID OPENING HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 12, 2009 @ 2:00 P.M.**

2.OEM Parts and Labor (Heavy Duty Road Machinery, Grounds Machinery, Motorcycles), B090157-NB
Opens: February 9, 2009 @ 3:00 p.m.

Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check. The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1.Park Concession Operations, S090158-RG
Opens: February 9, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.

AN OPTIONAL PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE FEBRUARY 3, 2009 @ 2:00 PM

Proposals should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Proposal Documents can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Proposers should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payment may be made by check. The successful proponent shall be required to furnish a Payment Bond and a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

STOR SELF STORAGE In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an own-

er's lien of the goods hereafter described and stored at Stor Self Storage locations listed below; And due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the following addresses to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of on the following dates. No one under 16 allowed. Cash only.

Stor Self Storage 2508 W. Pecan Street, Pflugerville, Texas 78660, 512-990-1100, February 5, 2009, 11:00 AM

Nestor Rocha, 1604 W. Braker Lane, Austin, Texas, 78758, Unit 00115, 5 x 10, #0912430

Entertainment center, Dresser, Queen Mattress set, table, misc. clothes.

Areesha Davis, 19600 Heatherwilde Blvd, #906, Pflugerville, Texas 78660, Unit 00147, 10 x 15, #0912429

Queen Mattress set, Full Mattress set (kids bed), Couch, Chair Dresser, end table and mirror bed room set.

Jessica Rios, 12329 Granton Cove, Manor, Texas 78653, Unit 00236, 5 x 15, #0912414

Metal Bed Frame, Roto-tiller, 20 misc. boxes, 2 plastic totes, 10 large plastic bags.

Mesha Franklin, 15212 Sweet Caddies Drive, Austin, Texas 78660, Unit 00317, 10 x 10, #0912421

Wooden Entertainment Center, Misc. clothing, 15" Television, Plastic Toy Box, Children's Toys, VHS Player.

Norman Nunn, 3167 Spaulding Avenue, #201, Pueblo, Colorado 81008, Unit 00733, 5 x 10, #0912432

12" Television, 9" Television, Dell Computer, Vacuum Cleaner, Set of Dumbbells, Misc. Toys, Misc. Clothing.

Stor Self Storage 7728 Bee Caves Road, Austin, Texas 78746, 512-306-0776, February 5, 2009, 11:00 AM

Dana Woodson, 300 Riverside Drive, #234, Austin, Texas 78704, Unit 352, 10 x 5, #989042

Futon Mattress, Cat box & litter, Suitcase, Plastic Table, Back Pillow, Misc. clothes and shoes.

X96-04978

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 345th District Court of Travis County, on the 18th day of December, 2008 in a certain cause numbered X96-04978, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and City of Lago Vista are plaintiffs, and Imogene A. Thomason, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, assigns, successors and heirs of the Estate of Imogene A. Thomason, John E. Thomason and NRC, Inc. (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$3,600.97** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 345th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on December 7, 1998.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2008, at 5:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of February, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 4097, Bar-K Ranches Plat 4, Plat No. 56/89 as described in Volume 7445, Page 136 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$3,084.88** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 5th day of January, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY

Lot 14162, Bar-K Ranches Plat 14, Plat No. 68/20 as described in Volume 7611, Page 415 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$3,600.97** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 5th day of January, 2009.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY

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X96-05282
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 98th District Court of Travis County, on the 19th day of December, 2008 in a certain cause numbered X96-05282, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, City of Lago Vista and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Antonio Triana and Gloria Triana are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$3,084.88** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 98th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on January 14, 1998.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2008, at 5:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of February, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 4097, Bar-K Ranches Plat 4, Plat No. 56/89 as described in Volume 7445, Page 136 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$3,084.88** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 5th day of January, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

X96-11326

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261st District Court of Travis County, on the 18th day of December, 2008 in a certain cause numbered X96-11326, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and City of Lago Vista are plaintiffs, and Paul E. Jensen, Shirley Jensen, Dykstra Family Trust III and General Electric Credit Corporation (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$3,785.10** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 261st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on September 18, 2002.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2008, at 5:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of February, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 15133, Bar-K Ranches, Section 15-A, Plat No. 79/142 as described in Volume 13378, Page 223 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$3,785.10** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 5th day of January, 2009.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

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New!!! **1997 Ford Ranger**. Only 75,000 miles. Runs great. \$4,250.

New!!! **1998 Civic** four door, auto, 150K miles. in process of 65 point check. Auto., \$4,450.

New!!! **1998 Toyota 4Runner**. 4 cylinder, clean, nice, warranty. \$4,450.

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New!!! **2002 Civic**, four-door, auto 87K., one year warranty. Clean, nice, \$6,750.

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I've played rebound, Cougar, I've been on my own. I am happy and content with myself and my life. Open to a LTR if the right guy comes along. **Ms-Spontaneous**, 37, **#128825**

MISTRESS 4 YOU

Mistress seeking submissives, pain sluts, sissyboys, and such. Think you can handle it? **crystalrose**, 37, **#128824**

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we are a sexy young couple looking for a woman to add to our spicy sex life. **menageatrois69**, 25, **#128976**

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She is bi curious and enjoys that dp video just open to new things and wnatng to chat/mingle with people. **loadedlara**, 32, **#128950**

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Hi! poly couple seeking third. cute and curvy /lean and muscular seeking fun energetic girl to date. **CultLeader**, 21, **#128309**

FUN NIGHT

Black couple seeking interested female for a night of fun!M y first time so seeking a female who is interested in making this experience one i will not forget! **muffinberries**, 24, **#128156**

DIRTY DADDY'S GURL

We are a hot, young, lustfull couple looking to play. We are adventurous, uninhibited, and occasionally a little dirty. Both enjoy games of the mind and body. **srcn4fun**, 32, **#128004**

NAUGHTY FUN WANTED!

Hello, we're a fun, professional, laid-back Austin couple. We're looking for single bi or bi-curious females, and couples, to join us in our naughty adventures. Bring on the fun!!! **ATX-Couple4you**, 32, **#127995**

DISCREET COUPLE SEEKING...

Couple of 7 yrs seeking female for the hubby. **pandp**, 33, **#127831**

BI-CURIOUS FEMALE

I am a very sexy, very fit female looking to explore my bi-sexual fantasies with another woman/women in front of my boyfriend. He is fit, hung, & fun. **looking4fun**, 30, **#127762**

B OUR PLAYMATE

Couple looking for playmates to play and enjoy one another. Just friends with benefits, no attachments. Just sex,and more sex. **newbies**, 36, **#127079**

SEXY ADVENTUROUS COUPLE

We're a couple in love but looking for erotic experiences with beautiful women. We're relatively new to this, but are up for a delicious sexual experience if you are interested... **foxyloxyngrizzlybear**, 22, **#127025**

NEW TO AUSTIN

Couple interesting in having a female companion to help spice things up in the bedroom. We are pretty easygoing people and willing to try anything! **Usagistar182**, 24, **#126862**

AWESOME COUPLE LOOKING

We are a happy couple that have been together 8 years. We are looking for female playmates. You won't be disappointed. **delvallefun**, 38, **#126459**

SEXY COUPLE LOOKING

Sexy young couple, looking for a hot lady to get frisky with. A little girl on girl action to start. We would love to be as discreet as possible. **luckyone**, 24, **#126216**

FIRST TIME COUPLE

we are a couple in love but wanting to expand our sexual pleasures. this would be our first time but we are very open minded. Couples or females only. **080764**, 44, **#124403**

SENSUALCPLSEEKING SPICE

We are a committed middle-aged couple interested in experiencing with like-minded individuals/couples to add spice to our hot lovemaking. If the words discreet, sensual, erotic, passionate, imaginative, fun interest you, contact us. **garf5848**, 49, **#123217**

WANT TO SHARE

We have an awesome relationship and sex life- and we wanna include you in it! Looking for a third to join us and make things more adventurous... **iris_and_jack**, 36, **#122165**

COUPLE INTO FUN!

We're happy couple that is into new encounters with others. He straight, She bi, open minded and ready! **Up4fun**, 45, **#120283**

READY FOR FUN!

Just looking for fun...can you deliver? **freak69ntxxx**, 40, **#119240**

SEEKING SWITCH PARTNER

You-looking for fun above all with no pre-conceived expectations. US:Average people looking for an above average fun ;) Prefer bi-sf, couples ok. Inexperienced welcomed. Honesty refreshing. **Bifemaustincpl**, 32, **#121712**

GIRL PLAYMATES

Experienced sexy bi hottie looking for other femme hotties to play with. **Catwalk**, 31, **#119900**

GOOD KARMA GIRL

I'm an amateur photographer looking to be a fly on the wall for any and all unusual situations that people will allow me to witness and make art from. **vron**, 42, **#128575**

SUBMISSIVE FOR MASTER

My master will control and teach me. He should be successful caring and giving yet firm. I will give my loyalty and treat him as my king. **Jean-42DDD**, 37, **#127400**

WETLIPS

im a wild sex kittin with wet lips and a soft skin, email me for sexy e-mails, ill talk dirty! **highheels23**, 22, **#126858**

SHAVED STILETTO STUD

W/M,shaved in stockings and stilettoes seeks 3 similar males for 4-some who crave studs in erotic feminine attire while empowering true inner femininity and enjoying our exotic & erotic experiences. **SexyStillettoStud**, 51, **#128746**

IN ABILENE, TEXAS:

SWM, 46, 6'2", 190, 34w, br/gr, handsome, masculine and honest. Seeking a tall, white, handsome, masculine, honest man 35-50 to hang out and see where it goes. **iamluckyru**, 47, **#125068**

HOTGUY LOOKING FOR

Hispanic Bottom, looking for a discreet encounter and a relationship with a Top guy. I am discreet Open to new things with guys around my age or younger.46yrs. **antonio_3638**, 44, **#118402**

BUDDY WITH BENEFITS

Looking for a good-looking, masculine, white guy, around 25-45, average to stocky. You'll host. Send face pics. Stats in online ad. **speedy246**, 30, **#115688**

CURIOUS FUNSEEKER

I am looking for someone who is also curious and willing to try different things to have discreet encounters or exchange e-mails; no strings attached. **Pugio**, 29, **#128472**

NO STRINGS ATTACHED!!!

My requests are simple... Discreet, sex,no relationships!!!! I am looking for a good one-on-one with the right lady, or a lil company(couple). Whatever the case maybe, I love sex :). **Scatter**, 31, **#128434**

RIPPEDCHILLER

respectful, smart, but an adverage guy,lean, and ripped. Green eyes, short brownish blonde hair, and really just looking for some descrete in-counters or email. nothing serious just some fun. **1433**, 21, **#128971**

NEED TWO WOMEN!

I simply need more than one woman to satisfy my sexual prowess... not bragging, just really bored with one on one sex, so if you've got a friend and what to have some fun look me up! **Slaine**, 33, **#128937**

CLEAN, STRONG, WARM.

Looking for lively, curious, clean, honest adventurous women or couple. Never judge others. I'm leaving town soon, so let's get together. I'll be away.. Happy New Year!XOXOXOX. **Dutch**, 40, **#128908**

RELAXNPLAY

young, independent, veturous and situated guy looking for something new, maybe something unconventional. im open to almost anything and will do whatever in the name of fun. **danview88**, 20, **#128899**

BLACKLIGHT SEX SLAVE

loud ass music and lots of bass banging while I am, using glowsticks for things they weren't intended for. ashamed of nothing and willing to do anything. Play with me! **Kandigazim**, 25, **#128896**

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GREEN

SENSUAL AND SEXUAL

We are a married couple that is looking to play with others. We like to spice it up a bit.

read the rest of **GREEN'S** profile or enter your own profile for **FREE** online at austinchronicle.com/easystreet

THE LUV DOC

Jo's Third Annual Chili Cold Blood Chili Cook Off
Sat., Jan. 24, noon • Jo's Coffee
1300 S. Congress • www.joscoffee.com

Kind of hard to wipe that shit-eatin' grin off your face, isn't it? We're only a couple of days into the new administration, and you're still expecting cash and Ecstasy to start falling out of the sky ... followed maybe by Osama bin Laden's corpse ... but let's not get ahead of ourselves, eh? With so many problems looming, it's nice to take a break and remind ourselves that things could be a whole lot worse. Sure, we're on the brink of financial ruin, our infrastructure is increasingly decrepit, and most of the Third World hates our guts (maybe because our guts are so much larger than theirs?), but when it comes to riding out great depressions, even Kansas is preferable to places like Somalia or Sudan, if only by a small margin. Plus, unlike Somalis, Kansans actually speak our language ... often better than we do and without an annoying accent. Yes, it's good to be an American. It's good to be able to whine about the high price of gas. It's good to be pissed off that some evil, greedy bastard on Wall Street gutted your retirement account. It's good to be able to criticize the ineptitude of our government to the point of libel. In Somalia, none of those things seem to make it on the to-do list. People mainly just sit around all day listening to their stomachs growl, waiting for Osama bin Laden's corpse to fall out of the sky. Really any protein source would do, but asking for Rush Limbaugh almost seems a little too greedy. Fortunately, thanks in no small part to the good 'ol U.S. of A., food does fall out of the sky in Somalia and Sudan, and with a much more reliable frequency than if left to ... say ... Somali warlords. If the God of Moses had amber waves of chemically enhanced grain and a fleet of C-130s, he might have hooked the Israelites up similarly. Nonetheless, this year and in the years to come, we might have to take a few steps back in order to go forward. Needless to say, it's going to take lots of time and ceaseless ingenuity to get those solar-powered air cars off the ground, but think of the money we'll save in road maintenance. On the energy conservation front, we'll probably have to completely cover the state of Nevada with wind turbines just to light up Vegas. That should create a few jobs. Getting off the health-insurance tit will take Herculean resolve, as well. In fact, that job may have to wait until Jesus himself becomes president. In the meantime, until sobering reality sets in, it's time to eat, drink, and be merry. You can do just that this Saturday at Jo's third annual Chili Cold Blood Chili Cookoff. Starting at noon, you can sample chili, enjoy beverages, and listen to music by Chili Cold Blood, Tina Rose & the Jo's House Band, DJ Chicken George, Honeybread, Woodsboss, and more. Chow down. No one will be able to tell if your shit-eatin' grin is really just from the chili.

Get **THE LUV DOC** all up in your inbox every week! Go to austinchronicle.com/luvdoclist and get on the list.

Lovers Lane

free!


women
SEEKING
men

HONEST, SWEET, REAL
I'm divorced and would like to find someone special to spend time with - someone who is honest and who approaches life with integrity and truth. **swtpeaintx**, 37,  **#129068**

COUNT ME IN
I have an interesting sense of humor. love to dance. I just love to have fun, very outdoorsy, camping, fishing, hiking. Love the Longhorns! **justas-weetiepie**, 50,  **#116439**


CREATIVEPLAYFUL BOHEMIANCRITTER
I'm funny, smart, attractive and looking for you. I enjoy art, music, movies, books, travel. I'm easy to be around. I love animals, great food and drink and stimulating conversation! **creative1**, 49,  **#129053**

LOOKING FOR REAL-MAN
I'm an Austin born videogame playing girl who loves to try new things. I'm looking for a man who can handle all of my quirks and spontaneous outbursts. **blondegamerchick**, 20,  **#129048**

PAINTBALL? POOL? ROCKBAND???
I'm a down to earth, out to space, Austin native whose looking for a movie freak whose just as crazy as I am to do spontaneous things with. Sound fun? **albinoredhead**, 19,  **#129045**

CAN READ MAPS
Seeking fun companion who is honest and dependable, loves dogs, makes me laugh, and is tolerant of a woman who has a busy schedule and limited time. **Twetiebird**, 53,  **#119067**

LETS GO EXPLORE!
We could drive up to the lake, explore a small town festival or winery then watch a movie at home with the wine and goodies we found along the way. **siena**, 56,  **#128985**


HIGH ENERGY ENTHUSIAST
I am a High energy, active, people person. I ride the bus sometime with my hula hoop, because there are always new places to hoop. A dancing fool. **dancinglilsunshine**, 24,  **#128956**


NextDoor


NIETZSCHE AND LENNON LOVE ME

I'm a grad student looking for stuff to do when I am skipping the stuff I have to do. Austin's been my home for a year and a half, though I've lived in quite a few interesting places. I'm into art, philosophy, cognitive science, game design, strumming, outdoor recreation and conversation. ENTJ. I like laughing, banter, idle talk that becomes surprisingly useful four days later.

read the rest of **NEXTDOOR's** profile or enter your own profile for **FREE** online at **austinchronicle.com/loverslane**


WHERE YOU ARE
Oh gee...this is tough. I love being surrounded by my family and friends. **goviwee3**, 30,  **#128941**


NO SENSE4 NONSENSE
I love stinky dogs.sunny days.coors light.egg rolls.the river.honesty. mostly anything with fun people. I crack myself up, sometimes I'm the only one laughing, but clearly it's hilarious! **katiepaige**, 23,  **#128844**

OUT-GOING, MOTIVATED, FUN
Active, energetic, funny, silly and smart law student looking for someone active with a good sense of humor who is intellectually compatible and encourages me to expand my horizons. **JLaw**, 24,  **#128886**


MANY MORE ADS ONLINE!
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PECAN WAFFLES
looking for someone with an interest in anything artistic and who can laugh when its most inappropriate. **tanknee**, 24,  **#128845**

CHEAPBEER & A LAWNCHAIR
i like my steak rare and my baked potato loaded. honesty and making me laugh are musts. a differing opinion on that movie we saw might be a deal breaker. **steorbord**, 25,  **#128839**

RU A REALBOY?
Looking for a real boy: an entertaining and easy going guy to explore Austin with me. Spontaneity, wit, and the ability to imitate Foghorn Leghorn are big pluses! **Nicki**, 42,  **#128833**

!
Shy, kinda quiet, sometimes moody & a little bit mean (or so I'm told) woman seeks nice, cheerful, outgoing, attractive man. **Nettie**, 42,  **#128830**

GENUINE CONNECTIONS
I believe in the power of genuine connections that help us become better people and live more peaceful and fulfilling lives. I'm looking for a man to share my journey. **orangepatchouli08**, 37,  **#128822**


DARE-TO-BE GREAT SITUATION
Intelligent, sarcastic, passionate, single mom, liberal activist. No one can possibly do themselves justice in 30 words, so look me up online. **sundoll**, 27,  **#128815**


DIVERSE, EASY-GOING, KIND
Looking for man who makes me laugh and won't give me the business cuz I don't spend my weekends scaling rocks. Outside is fun but I'm ready to just hang. **Spike**, 43,  **#123920**

MAKE ME MELT
Loving, sexy, creative woman that is looking for a younger soul mate.I would love to find someone who loves affection,sexual, positive and a great listener. **Sanart**, 46,  **#128793**


SEXY,SASSY,COOL
woman of my word will always say what i mean and mean what i say. I will support you mentally, emotionally and physically. Im not afraid of being in love. **mchllgreen**, 44,  **#128717**


men
SEEKING
women


2LEGIT2QUIT
A winner, a sinner, non conforming conformist, sports addict, party like a rock star, **** like a porn star. DO WORK! **Justin1354**, 24,  **#125025**


SEXY BOY
well, I looking for friends if they speak espanol i do.i like to work out every day write to me and i will answer you. **friendlover**, 24,  **#129071**


LAUGH AT YOURSELF
You meet a friend of a friend at the bar. Don't just keep talking to your friend as if the friend of your friend were not now your friend too. **Next-Door**, 27,  **#126403**


REALLY?
Very well, where do I begin? My father was a relentlessly self-improving accountant from El Paso with low grade juvenile delinquency and a penchant for travel. **MyCallKane**, 28,  **#129055**


I NEED FIXING!
Purely skeptical of this whole thing. Believe it is more for a titillating laugh at what people would say or be willing to do to find a date... **mhojinacki**, 44,  **#119539**


SUGAR AND SPICE
I'm smart but I'm stupid. I'm funny and not funny. You get it. I'm just a "normal" guy trying to find his way in the world. **Snugglebuns**, 21,  **#129052**

..HERE I AM
Think my friends would say I'm down-to-earth, outgoing and generally pretty low-key. Explore/hike/ travel. Pursue the thrill of something new. Get invited to dinner parties with interesting people. **Morrisut**, 27,  **#129051**


I'M A MAN
I am not an animal. I am a human being. **Bourlinguer**, 31,  **#129038**


GREAT LIFE!!
If you are cool, fun, funny, attractive and laid back, send me a note. Looking for fun people that want to go have a good time doing almost anything! **austxman**, 37,  **#129032**

OPENLY OPTIMISTIC
If you want to have good time with a good hearted person who is down for anything, than look no further!!! I am here, you can stop the search. **LostnAustin**, 33,  **#129028**


AMITHEONLYONELEFT?
This is the hard part. I can be a bit shy around new people at first, but that tends to pass pretty. **better-LuckNextTime**, 24,  **#125821**

ARTIST LOOKING4 INSPIRATION
Now that I've landed my dream job, I'm looking to meet new, diffarant people. Someone clever enough to debate her views. A friend(more?) who can introduce me to new things. **AJTron**, 22,  **#129018**

COOL, INTELLECTUAL, PARTIER
Hey Ladies, Looking for someone to get to know. I do have a little girl that means the world to me. In school, and I do have a job. **Mr_Intellect**, 22,  **#129008**

LET'S GET LOST...
You: entj, adventurous not suicidal, hot not flammable, crunchy not mac-robotic, creative not self-indulgent, smart and juicy Me: infp, active, eclectic, goofy, mad scientist, cook, pilot, photographer, astronomer, film geek. **gmaxbell**, 41,  **#129013**

OUTDOORSY TYPE SEEKS
I lead an active lifestyle. Intelligent, honest, creative and healthy sense of humor. Communication is essential. I won't try to change you if you won't try to change me. **SpaceWrangler**, 36,  **#129012**

SINGLE BI-SEXUAL MALE
like my headline says im bi-sexual but i prefer women. im easy going and love to have fun. im also bipolar. **kingcooker**, 18,  **#128998**

THOUGHT TO SHARE
I am a well intentioned misanthrope. I love people who are different, eccentric, a little off, and happy to be so. I am looking for a friend first. **lifeiselsewhere**, 27,  **#128982**

JUSTIN TEXAS, Y'ALL!
JustinTexas, 37,  **#128979**

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
WEARS WHITE SPANDEX
ya never met a boy like me, and i been this way since 2 or 3. i got soul and i like to smile, that way you see my teeth. **yomama**, 34,  **#128975**

YOU AND I
Hi ladies! I like being outside to ponder the mysteries of life. Tall with a big heart, but not a sissy. Somewhat rough edged. **GTJon**, 43,  **#128965**


CARE TO DANCE?
I just won the Mega Millions Lottery for \$100 million dollars and I am waiting for the right time to announce it. **Private_Chef**, 51,  **#128935**


women
SEEKING
women


I LOVE HATS.
Austinite 24yr. looking for attractive, intelligent, athletic, dominant lady to spend time with around town. No butchies need respond. **July3**, 24,  **#129016**


DELICIOUS JAMS OHYEAH
I love tattoos, reggae, live music, boardshorts, outdoorsyness, lips, mr. chen, adventure, laughing, reading, writing, biology, random trivia, and rockband. I want your body. **Natissfaction**, 22,  **#128909**

SARCASM GALORE
I'm new to the Austin area, and looking to meet some cool new people to show me around this lovely place.I love traveling, cooking, dancing, electronic music, & watching movies. **erinlagrif**, 26,  **#128758**

BROWN BUTCH SEEKS
Hello, my name is Chris. I'm 30 years old. I would like to find some cool people with whom I can break bread, exchange music and ideas, thoughts, vibes....saliva eventually. **chrisg2369**, 30,  **#128732**

ADORABLE, DREADLOCKED, SEXINESS
i'm all about meeting new people and having fun.i like to dance, jog, bike rides, watch movies, travel, go to concerts, and check out new restaurants.let's hang out! **E137071**, 27,  **#128500**

"SECRETS IN SAUCE"
When I look at her I cant remember anyone before her and cant imagine not being with her for the rest of my life. She feels the same way. **shewolfann**, 49,  **#128103**

SMARTASSCHICK
Laid-back, 33 year-old professional, soft-butth (whatever the hell that means??!!). I would like to meet an attractive, chill woman who has a brain and can have a stimulating convo, good kisser. **cooshrockets**, 33,  **#128395**


SWEET, LAIDBACK, FUN
Traditional good girl looking for friends and/or lovers. Love the outdoors and country life although I can party with the best. Very open minded and non-judgemental. No gossip or drama. **katieb**, 35,  **#128206**


NEWGIRL: INTOWN 2LOVENBELOVED
I date girls of all races! I'm outgoing; little shy at first. Love live music and dancing. I just want a girl to make me laugh and give me butterflies. **SapphQt**, 26,  **#128071**


'I'M SO BADASS!'
I'm a laid back goof with couch potato tendencies tho I love going out. Mexican food, coffee,and music have me grabbing my keys faster than you can say "mexican martini." **shygirl**, 26,  **#127823**

men
SEEKING
men

SHY CARING ROMANTIC
Im a very laid back easy going type guy I like the outdoors reading going out etc I love meeting new people & traveling Like guys that are in shape. **mgf2005**, 45,  **#101030**

MR.SQUIRREL AND I
I'm in Austin till the 19th. I go to college in NY. I'm like one of those enigmatic fortune cookie messages. I'm not entirely sure how to describe myself. **nelson**, 18,  **#128894**

LAID BACK GUY
Been single too long. Laid back guy here who loves meeting new people. Looking for that one special person to hang out with, get to know, and see what happens. **AustinRomance**, 31,  **#128768**


NOT HIBERNATING YET
People accuse me of having a huge heart, 50s bearish male seeks younger bud that is honest, trustworthy and employed. Love all the safe stuff, kissing and making out. **ronintex**, 57,  **#115402**


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AUSTIN BORN

I’m emotional & moody at times, passive, vers/btm and feminine mannered. I’m looking for white or hispanic men vers/tops. No Closet Cases!! Be Proud of who you are, I am. **jmnzptrck**, 41, , **#127798**



HOPE DIES LAST

haha, i am many things, but ordinary is not one of them! Lets be random together !! And find new ways to be crazy ! **Blue**, 23, , **#101322**

LOOK HERE, PLEASE!


Looking for friendship, dating. Interests include camping, biking, theater, movies, reading, canoeing, traveling. Politically progressive, romantic, passionate, humorous, and do community work Am 5'9, 163#, 62yo, trim gray beard, masculine. **AusAbogado**, 62, , **#124933**

YOUR SENSUAL SPARTAN


I’m a man with a passion for good looking women, high quality dining, and watching animals. I enjoy watching the 300, Rambo, and Conan. Could you be my Salma/Heidi Klum? **inuyasha86**, 22, , , **#125037**

JUST friends


GO DEAR HUNTER

Im max Im straight forward, truthful, and typically quiet I solve problems, I think too much, possibly read too much on top of that. **shapie08**, 25, , **#128961**


LOVE TO LIVE

Ive been in Austin for two yrs&half. working&studying.couldnt have chance to meet people find friends. now Im taking break from studying. trying to find someone who can take me out show me austin. **nana**, 31, , **#128817**


THE APPLE EATER

just see me in action at work and you will see my true nature. i am a giver and a nurturer. i am realistic, proud, joyous, adventurous, outgoing.. **brookerhymeswith**, 24, , **#128765**

READY 2 CHILL!!!

My name is Liz and I’m looking for a person to hang out with and chill and nobody that is NOT looking for love just PURE FUN. No BS! **lizabe85**, 23, , **#128731**

SOUTHAUSTINGUITARSLINGER

I am new to this kind of thing. I have one kid who I share custody with. If kids turn you off don’t bother. Always do the next right thing! **austinguitar-man**, 30, , , **#128682**

messages

LIFE’S A JOURNEY Let’s walk another 8,760 miles together.

HB- I AM sorry. I love you and I want us to be together. -HB

SHOES WON’T DROP cuz my feet are buried in the sand of your beach. did ya bring your suit? - stingray

a Shot in the Dark.....→

YMCA TOWNLAKE BRANCH

Andrew! You are super HOT! I want to get to know you better! If you think you know who I am, please make a move! **When: Thursday, January 1. Where: Townlake YMCA. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903767**

WHOLEFOODS MONDAY EVENING

You wandered around w/2 friends (guy and girl). We looked, smiled. When I left, you’re w/friends at door. Was not sure how to go up. Hope you read and email. **When: Monday, January 19, 2009. Where: Whole Foods. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903766**

ETHAN RED-FEZ

Great dancing - you behind me for a long time at RED-FEZ 12/27/08. Let’s do this again and have a drink as well! Tina long blond hair. **When: Saturday, December 27, 2008. Where: REDFEZ. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903765**

ETHAN REDFEZ DANCING

You danced behind me a long time at RED FEZ 1/3/09. Exchanged names (Tina blond long hair). Wanna do that again sometime soon and have a drink as well? **When: Saturday, January 3, 2009. Where: RED FEZ. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903764**

PRETTY WOMEN

the first time i saw you, you smiled. and after that you move to other lane, then you said me good bye. do you wanna hang out? when: HBE, burnet **When: Friday, January 9, 2009. Where: HBE on burnet. You: Woman. Man: Man. #903762**

10TH ST PARTY

We crashed the private party on 10th street from the church - you had dark hair and glasses. Are you single? Do you like pie? **When: Saturday, January 17, 2009. Where: 10th Street party. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903761**

DART BOWL FRIDAY

You have your own bowling ball and shoes and were there with two guys. I was there with a couple. I was wearing a black top and argyle socks. **When: Friday, January 16, 2009. Where: Dart Bowl Lane 6. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903760**

BSSSALOON - PHOEBE

that one night was not enough. call me. more please sweetheart? **When: Monday, January 5, 2009. Where: barton springs saloon. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #903759**

MYSTERY MOVIE MAN

You:Handsome man in concession line at Round Rock Tinseltown. You were seeing Notorious B.I.G. Me:Woman seeing Bride Wars with her girlfriends. Spoke to you but got nervous. Movie together sometime? **When: Friday, January 16, 2009. Where: Tinseltown Round Rock. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903763**

YOU FLING POO?

You were in Thundercloud and left this sketch (see website for image). Hilarious, brilliant, scatological ... the picture. Not sure about you! See you at Thundercloud on 12th on Friday? **When: Thursday, January 15, 2009. Where: Thundercloud on 12th. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903758**

TACKLEBOX TOO HIGH???

You wanted very top Tacklebox. Noticed, the one you wanted was in my reach. Chance to get one from the top again??? I’m hoping tacklebox was for your Dad! **When: Thursday, January 15, 2009. Where: Academy.. jollyville. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903757**

OCH BARBACK

You were working really hard on Wednesday night. I love the spiked hard mohawk. Can your pants be any tighter??? Lets fix each others hair sometime..... **When: Wednesday, January 14, 2009. Where: OCH. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903756**

CONTINENTAL CLUB!!!!

I saw you the night David Garza played, you this tall beautiful woman with sexy blond hair.me(6’3”)with long hair and, you work there so maybe I’ll be seeing you soon **When: Tuesday, January 13, 2009. Where: Continental Club. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903755**

IRON CACTUS BRUNCH

I have seen you before, you drink you drink your Mamosa’s with a straw, awesome. When I left you waved from the patio, you were there with a guy with a daughter??? **When: Monday, January 12, 2009. Where: IRON CACTUS NORTH. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903754**

6:30 PM SERRANOS

you were dining with your parents?I was at the table behind you chin length hair with friend. We exchanged looks; I wish I had talked to you b4 you left **When: Wednesday, January 14, 2009. Where: serranos in the arbor. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903753**

SERRANOS 6:30PM

you (male) in red baseball cap.(female) at the table behind you;we exchanged looks but never got the nerve up to speak to you.I would like to have another chance to. **When: Wednesday, January 14, 2009. Where: serranos. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903752**

BEERLAND FLASH BOYS

Talked outside Beerland. We shared a smoke. You had my attention. Jael, I wanted to know more. Could not be rude to my date. Get together again? **When: Friday, January 9, 2009. Where: Beerland. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903750**

FLUSTERED AT PHIL’S

You were so cute I couldn’t order! Me: tall, glasses, brown hair, kid in arms, goofy, with two couples. You: beautiful! awesome glasses, tattoo on upper arm, gorgeous smile. **When: Saturday, January 10, 2009. Where: Phil’s Icehouse on Burnet. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #903749**

TOWNLAKEYMCA MONDAY

Between 6-7pm - You beautiful brunette wearing green long sleeve with red shoes, me blonde guy who jumped in front of you on machines, you look familiar... let’s chat! **When: Monday, January 12, 2009. Where: YMCA Townloake. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903747**

SAN MARCOS LAUNDRY.

You keep calling and not leaving your number, Mark S. Caller ID is not a part of my life as of yet. Give it another try. Let’s write! Laundromat Amy. **When: Monday, December 1, 2008. Where: Coffee patio. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903746**

LOOK OUT! ZOMBIES!

You: cute Somnio’s waitress. Me: awkward guy with glasses. We watched Punch Drunk Love, and then you saved my New Year’s Eve. Care for a free zombie defense lesson? **When: Sunday, December 28, 2008. Where: Somnio’s. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903745**

LOVELY CHINCHE

You were Chuy’s host. Kept sharing smiles. Wrote note on a comment card. Have lots of love for you - hope I get a chance to explain. Today’s the day. **When: Tuesday, January 15, 2008. Where: Chuy’s. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903744**

GOODBYE FOR NOW

You: heart on sleeve,off to mexico, hurt by musty asswhitegirl. Me: ready to maid, friend, lover, spokes-woman toyou while gone. Come back and the rest will be ok! C.Liver. **When: Saturday, January 10, 2009. Where: eastside. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903743**

RACHEL, TRAIN RIDE

Train from Fort Worth to Austin. You smoke parlaments and I like you. I lost your number. I had it in my wallet. It disappeared. Let’s play some laser tag. **When: Friday, November 28, 2008. Where: Amtrak Train. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903742**

ALEX @ DOC’S

BCS title game, You: at the bar next to my table doing your Miller thing. We chatted-I remember where you know me from. Me: Red T, brown hair and eyes **When: Thursday, January 8, 2009. Where: Doc’s South Congress. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903741**

BMX GUY S.LAMAR

Day before yesterday. Riding your bike next to my car on the sidewalk by wendys. You looked at me and smiled. I blushed. Lets ride somewhere and get coffee? **When: Thursday, January 8, 2009. Where: South Lamar. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903740**

1/7/09, THUNDERCLOUD-RIVERSIDE, 7:00PM

You:short-black hair, glasses, petite, and adorable. Veggie-delite, overheard that you recently moved here from Ohio. Me:tattoos, black shirt, some facial-piercings, long(ish) brown hair, in line in front of you. Coffee?Lunch?Dinner?Drinks? **When: Wednesday, January 7, 2009. Where: Thundercloud Subs on Riverside. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903739**

KINKO’S ON BURNET

You were at Kinko’s on N Burnet with co-workers. I looked at you and you at me. Not sure if your interested, but I sure am **When: Tuesday, January 6, 2009. Where: Kinko’s on North Burnet. You: Man. Me: Man. #903732**

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Brezsny for Jan. 23-29

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In the ancient Chinese book *Poets’ Jade Splinters*, Lu Ji says, “Avoid the morning flower in full blossom and gather, instead, evening buds which are not yet open.” He’s telling his fellow poets not to rely on what has already ripened but rather to concentrate on what’s still in embryonic form. Lu Ji’s colleague Song Zijing adds a complementary thought: “If you always use a compass to draw a circle and a ruler to draw a square, you will always remain a slave.” Both Lu Ji’s and Song Zijing’s counsel will work very well for you in the coming year, Aquarius, even if you’re not a poet.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Once every few years, a panel of Hindu and Buddhist judges in Nepal chooses a new living goddess, a young girl who serves, until she reaches puberty, as an incarnation of the deity Taleju. One of the tests each candidate must pass in order to be eligible for the role is this: She must show no fear as she spends a night alone in a room filled with the bloody heads of ritually killed buffalo and goats. I’d like you to consider the possibility of carrying out a more humane equivalent of that ceremony, Pisces. For one night, keep symbols of what you’re afraid of in the place where you sleep. To do so would be an excellent way to earn the right to graduate to the next level of your spiritual evolution.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In *The Devil’s Dictionary*, Ambrose Bierce defines history as follows: “an account mostly false, of events mostly unimportant, which are brought about by rulers, mostly knaves, and soldiers, mostly fools.” Bear that in mind as you interpret what I mean by the following: You won’t make history in the coming weeks. Instead, you will help generate an interesting and important story that will involve unfamous people who have little political power or military skill but have a great deal of potent grace, nuanced strength, and soulful intelligence.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): “Dear Rob: Are you holding back some painful truth from us Tauruses? I feel like you’re going too easy on us, and as a result, I’m missing some clue I desperately need. Please tell us what it is so we can face it and get on with life. – *Semieelegant Bull in a China Shop.*” Dear Semielegant: I’m not aware of having withheld a painful truth from you, Tauruses. The only thing I can think of is that maybe I haven’t been forceful or clear enough in saying the following: One of your primary tasks is to study hard and think deeply as you learn more about how to create peace and serenity in your life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Kenneth Koch wrote the poem “The Boiling Water.” Read this excerpt: “A serious moment for the water is when it boils/And though one usually regards it merely as a convenience/To have the boiling water available for bath or table/Occasionally there is someone around who understands/The importance of this moment for the water – maybe a saint,/Maybe a poet, maybe a crazy man, or just someone temporarily disturbed/With his mind ‘floating,’ in a sense, away from his deepest/Personal concerns to more ‘unreal’ things.” In the weeks ahead, Gemini, I encourage you to be one of those crazy floaters – someone who tunes in to the serious moments that are normally outside your personal concerns. You need a strong dose of the hidden reality behind the obvious reality.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): “When I grow up,” writes Ramona McNabb, “I want to be a river.” In the coming year, that would be a worthy aspiration for you, as well, Cancerian. You’d generate a flood of benefits, some unexpected, by cultivating your ability to be perfectly yourself as you flow ever onward in rhythm with the sky and earth, unimpeded by the fluctuations of light and darkness, and in love with the ceaseless movement of your own strong currents.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): For the citizens of Switzerland, it’s immoral to absentmindedly pluck wildflowers out of the ground and throw them aside.That’s because this enlightened country has a bill of rights for plants. The 22-page document, drawn up by a panel of theologians, philosophers, geneticists, and lawyers, strongly urges respect for the feelings and dignity of all vegetation. I wish you would think about including this mindset in your ethical code, Leo. It’s high time for you to expand and refine your sense of right and wrong – not just in relation to plants but to everyone and everything in the world.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): “Many people feel guilty about things they shouldn’t feel guilty about,” wrote journalist Sydney J. Harris, “in order to shut out feelings of guilt about things they should feel guilty about.” Your assignment is to figure out whether this description applies to you. If it does, be brave as you expose the truly guilt-worthy stuff you’ve repressed. Helpful cosmic energies will flow your way if you uncover what you need to atone for and then atone for it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): While working on his first draft of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson hung out at a tavern in Philadelphia and drank beer. While contemplating how best to motivate you Libras to seek more autonomy and self-determination, I was strolling along a California beach sipping a piña colada and watching windsurfers. In the grand tradition of Jefferson and me, I hope you will put yourself in a relaxed and playful mood as you dream and scheme about all the things you could do to emancipate yourself in the coming months. For God’s sake, don’t make it a grave and ponderous meditation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you use a cell phone, you have in your possession a metal called coltan, a component that’s essential to the phone’s function. Most of the world’s coltan comes from the Congo and is mined by Rwandans who survived their country’s genocide in the 1990s.They often work for militias that sell coltan illegally to finance their military operations. It so happens that the land where this metal lies is also the home of the mountain gorilla, an endangered species that is being decimated as the miners and militias kill them for food and ravage their habitat. Keep this in mind the next time you call a friend. While you’re at it, Scorpio, use Google and your imagination to meditate on the origins of all the important resources in your life. It’s prime time to know more about their origins. You will benefit from getting familiar with the roots of whatever gives you power.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Ninety-seven percent of all youths play video games, dwarfing the number of kids who participate in activities like basketball, track, and javelin throwing. That’s why I’m an advocate of making video games an Olympic sport. We should recognize where the real future of competitive sports lies. I mention this, Sagittarius, because it would be a good time for you to start upgrading your video-game prowess in preparation for a possible berth in the 2012 or 2016 Olympics. In fact, the moment is right to plan on getting the training you need to become a master of any skills that may eventually win you rewards, even if they’re not yet getting their rightful due from our culture.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Most art critics long regarded Gustav Klimt (1862-1918) as a second-tier modern painter, writes Don Thompson in his book *The \$12 Million Stuffed Shark: The Curious Economics of Contemporary Art*. But that estimation got upgraded in 2006, when one of Klimt’s paintings sold for \$135 million. Art history was rewritten with a checkbook, says Thompson. According to my reading of the astrological omens, there’s a possibility that your worth will also jump to a higher octave in 2009, Capricorn. But unlike Klimt, who didn’t do anything new, you’ll have to take action to earn your rise in status. How? Some suggestions: 1) Practice forgiveness with more intensity. 2) Be more tolerant of imperfection in yourself and others. 3) Expand your capacity to give.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Brezsny’s EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-4888 or 900/950-7700.

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Vicinia, the developer of Nine Sixty Nine, has garnered piling accolades in addition to a great deal of instant interest. The community is fresh from a Grand Prize win in a national contest sponsored by Dreyer’s Ice Cream for “**The Coolest U.S. Neighborhood**” and was named a local winner in the Chronicle’s Awards for “**Best Cubist Neighborhood**”, as well as being honored this week at Austin’s “Going Green” award ceremony & the neighborhood has been seen in pages from Austin Monthly to Dwell magazine. Although the casual observer will indeed, encounter gorgeous modern homes from \$200,000 to half a million dollars in Nine Sixty Nine’s “agave” division, traditionalists will also adore their “Villas” section of the

neighborhood – with stucco and upscale features reminiscent of Italian villas amazingly starting below \$200,000.

New homeowner, Alexandra Weeks, explains what brought her to this community: “We never thought we’d sell our central Austin bungalow until we happened upon Nine Sixty Nine by sheer chance. We’re still 7 minutes from downtown, but the amenities of our home are nothing short of amazing. Our energy bills are minimal because of energy-efficient building features and low-E windows, we have upscale touches like Silestone countertops, stainless appliances, polished concrete, bamboo and slate floors, travertine-lined showers, stucco siding, a tankless hot water heater for “hot water on demand”, we have a huge lot, a large home that overlooks both endless trees and the skyline of downtown...we wrote a contract the day we saw the neighborhood and have never been happier.”

Bryan Watson, a well-respected, local Keller Williams Realtor, was chosen by Vicinia, (along with his team “Watson Realty Group”) to represent the community at an on-site model located at the entrance to Nine Sixty Nine because of their expertise in the area, real estate investments, and eco-friendly homes. The community has garnered a great deal of interest from national investors and recently teamed with a local mortgage company as well in order to offer true “Below Market Financing” for a limited time on all homes (as they roll out plans for their new 5 star green-built Fiore homes, and introduce the second phase of agave: “Design Series”).

Nine Sixty Nine is located on MLK (969), just East of 183 on the left at **5237 Sendero Hills**. The **Watson Realty Team** can be reached at **512-927-2626** for more information or visit **www.ninesixtynine.com**

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Amenities such as wood laminates, open floor plans, stainless steel appliances, and European washers and dryers are just a few of the features offered in many of these modern communities. Some even offer resort-style pools and are situated steps away from dining, nightlife, shuttles and soon to open light rail stations.

From the hip **78704 Bouldin Creek** neighborhood in south Austin, to the sleek high rises of **downtown**, to the up and coming **Manor Rd.** district, Roscoe Properties has a home to fit any budget or lifestyle.

Email **info@roscoeprop.com** or call **(512) 480-9886** to check out some of their signature properties throughout Central Austin!

East End Flats

Low-Price Options Fuel East Austin Condo Market Affordable loft living is not just a dream, but a reality, thanks to low-cost, upscale condo construction in East Austin. Recent price reductions mean that units are going fast, according to local real estate experts.

Unlike many condo projects downtown, which cater largely to upscale clientele, many units being built on the east side are quite affordable

CONTINUED ON P.4 ►

CREDIT ISSUES?

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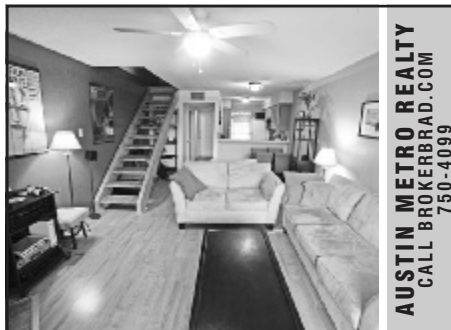
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Offers and prices subject to change without notice. See Sales Office for details.

spaces

ADVERTISING



◀ CONTINUED FROM P.2

for those with moderate incomes, says Greg Cooper, Vice President of Sales for Goldwasser Real Estate.

"Condo prices in East Austin are really very reasonable," Cooper says, pointing to East End Flats, located on E. 12th St., where prices start at just \$117,000. Views of downtown, the Capitol and UT Tower are available for under \$170,000.

The mixed-use community offers three commercial units on the first floor, plus three levels of one-bedroom condos with a sleek, modern design. The building includes a wide array of upscale amenities such as granite counters, balconies, stained concrete and maple wood floors, recessed lighting, walk-in closets, washer/dryer hookups, and double-insulated walls.

The promise of attractive East Austin real estate is coming to fruition, thanks to a recent

◀ EAST END FLATS

NEWMARK HOMES ▼



surge in new residential construction, Cooper says. The area that many buyers once avoided is now arguably at the forefront of real estate development as prices have continued to rise around Central Austin.

Austin's experience mirrors a nationwide trend of renewing city centers for residential use.

"I encourage my clients to buy now, while the area is still affordable," Cooper says. "I believe we're witnessing just the beginning of this renaissance in East Austin."

Newmark Homes

Edgewick, by Newmark Homes, offers Carriage and City Homes near the SoCo district and Downtown. For those seeking the energetic and chic Downtown lifestyle without

CONTINUED ON P.7 ▶

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◀ CONTINUED FROM P.4

the traffic headaches or high costs associated with Downtown living, Newmark's newest neighborhood, Edgewick, offers the perfect compromise: a chance to enjoy unmatched, relaxed urban living that's perfect for work, play, or simply getting away. For business, the commute to a Downtown office, the Capitol, or Austin-Bergstrom International Airport doesn't get any easier. And when it's time for play, hundreds of restaurants, boutiques, galleries, coffee shops, and live music venues reside just around the corner. Choose from six different floor plans, ranging from 875 to 1,371 square feet, and priced from the \$150s to the \$200s. Each city and carriage home is detached, meaning neighbors will not share a common wall. Styles range from one bedroom with one bath to three bedrooms with three full baths. An equally attractive feature is the enjoyment of maintenance-free condominium living with the feel of a single-family home community. Full-service lawn maintenance is a standard feature, providing residents with even more time to enjoy the wealth of in-community amenities and the bustling neighborhood scene, including a sizable recreational pool and accompanying activity-filled picnic area. The convenience of Edgewick extends to education as well. The community is in close proximity to St. Edward's University, multiple Austin Community College campuses,

and The University of Texas, which even has a shuttle bus route to campus that includes an Edgewick stop.

Edgewick is located on **Wickshire Lane in South Austin**, approximately one mile east of I-35 (78741). From I-35, go east on Woodward Street, left on Parker Lane and right on Wickshire Lane. Call **512-916-8438** or visit online: **www.edgewick.com**.

Greenlight Locating

Rental options: Locators make it easy In the market for a rental home? You have many options: use a traditional Realtor who normally assists in the buying/selling process, or search out landlords through advertisements, or go to each apartment community directly— it's overwhelming. But each of these has their limitations, and only a professional Locator can do all these jobs with the minimum of time, effort, hassle and can produce the best results.

The average Realtor has access to many of the rental properties on the market, but limited knowledge of apartment options. Locators can look at all alternatives thoroughly—houses, duplexes, highrise condos, downtown lofts, garage walk ups and of course apartment homes. Locators build and maintain extensive databases, full of intricacies and details about each community, and specifics designed to tailor a search right for you. What if you're torn between the



apartment's long list of amenities, or the aspect of having your own back yard? An experienced Apartment Locator can find you either.

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CONTINUED ON P.8 ▶

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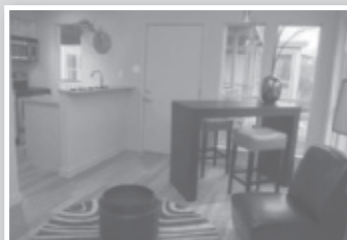


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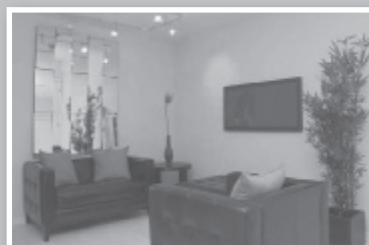
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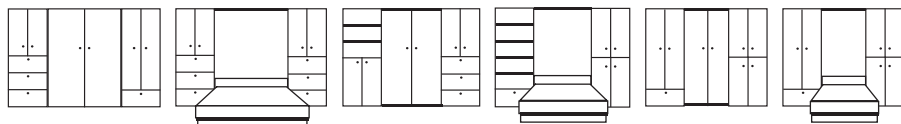
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◀ CONTINUED FROM P.7

360 Condominiums

Life does indeed surround you at **360 Condominiums**. Rising 44 stories above the shores of Lady Bird Lake and holding court over the very heart of downtown Austin, 360 is a contemporary sculpture of concrete, glass, and steel that connects nature with an eclectic neighborhood to create a modern urban sanctuary.

Developed by Atlanta-based Novare Group in partnership with Austin's own Andrews Urban, 360 combines classical design with contemporary green-building materials. Amenities like a 9th floor clubroom, outdoor landscaped terrace and pool, state-of-the-art fitness center, media room, and 24-hour concierge service. In a nod to thoughtful planning, retail establishments ring the tower's ground floor and include an award-winning restaurant, coffee shop, grocer, art gallery and fashion stores.

Above it all, residences feature spacious, open floor plans with 10' ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows to capitalize on the stellar views of the skyline and Texas Hill Country. Hardwood floors, granite kitchen and bath countertops and stainless-steel Whirlpool® appliances are just a few reasons why 360 has been named a finalist for Best Multi-Family Highrise by the National Association of Homebuilders.



With only 12 units available, incentives of up to \$50,000 off select floor plans through the end of January mean these residences won't last long. Andrews Urban President, Taylor Andrews says "360 offers an unparalleled location, abundant amenities and luxury residences for one of the most compelling price points available in the market."

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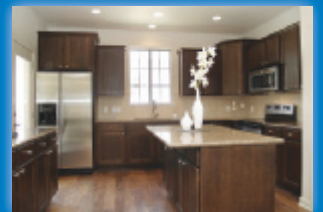
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◀ CONTINUED FROM P8



Pecan Park Place

For those who know the value of comfort and convenience, Pecan Park Place offers the perfect lifestyle at the perfect price. A Cornerstone Community, Pecan Park Place features six unique custom home designs, each with high-end finish-out options and top of the line craftsmanship. Best of all, everything you need is within walking distance or a short drive from your new home, from local shopping malls like Lakeline, The Domain and The Arboretum to movie theatres, restaurants and grocery stores.

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BRAZOS ▼



ful community featuring a list of luxurious amenities, including a swimming pool with beach entry, sunning area and a large deck with lounging seats. There's even a heated whirlpool spa and a cabana house with changing rooms and restrooms for your convenience.

Speaking of convenience, Pecan Park Place provides easy access to major roads and highways, professional maintenance of community grounds, and landscaping provided by the Home Owner's Association. And, as a gated community with controlled access, Pecan Park Place adds privacy and security to the list of benefits for homeowners.

Professionally chosen exterior finish packages add to the beauty and incredible value of these spacious single-family homes that start at just \$198,990, and range from 1596 to 1787 square feet.

Why settle for less than quality, comfort and convenience at a great value?

For more info, contact **Chris Corbett** at **512.535.5067** or **Chris@CornerstoneCommunitiesUSA.com**

Brazos

The new destination for downtown living
Located in the heart of Austin's central business district at 8th and Brazos, there's energy and excitement at Brazos Place! Residents enjoy a full range of luxury amenities in spacious condo homes situated just steps away from the best dining, entertainment and shopping that the city has to offer.

Originally the Commodore Perry, the property boasts a rich historical past as "Austin's Hotel of Distinction." Designed in 1948 by legendary architect Hugo Franz Keuhne, founder of the School of Architecture at the University of Texas, the posh hotel boasted complete air conditioning, the largest ballroom in the city and radios and televisions in every room. In 1984, the hotel was converted in an office building, One Commodore Plaza.

Today, under the direction of PRS Equities, Brazos Place has been transformed into a mixed-use signature property offering luxury residences, smartly planned office spaces and two levels of convenience and destination retail, anchored by renowned jeweler Anthony Nak. The 74 condo units have open living spaces, polished concrete floors, and private balconies with stunning views of the city. Spacious 1 and 2 bedroom floor plans from 622 to 1400 square feet are available at prices ranging from mid \$200,000 to low \$500,000.

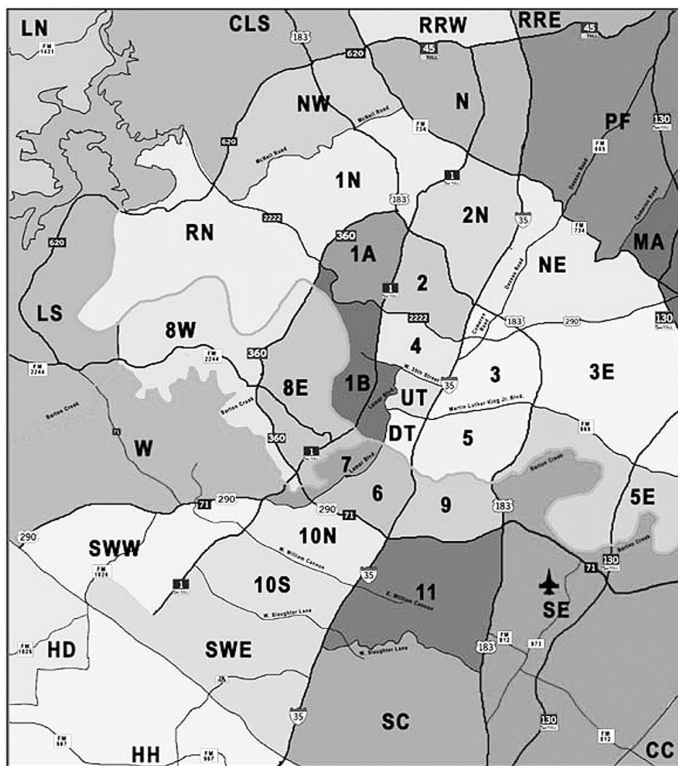
CONTINUED ON P.13 ►

FIGURES REPRESENT OVERALL Single Family Home Prices IN THE AUSTIN AREA FOR NOVEMBER 2008

Source: Austin Board of Realtors™

Overall, Austin saw an appreciation of 3% in home prices for 2008.

The Austin Board of Realtors™ currently shows 11.5 months of inventory on the National level, with the local Austin market only 5.7 months.



AREA	AVERAGE PRICE	MEDIAN PRICE	# OF HOMES SOLD	AVG. DAYS ON MKT.
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1B	\$732,788	\$790,000	5	60
1N	\$273,451	\$229,900	23	78
2	\$222,309	\$200,950	12	56
2N	\$109,626	\$99,750	22	29
3	\$216,435	\$225,000	11	52
3E	\$148,708	\$106,386	7	51
4	\$386,753	\$311,000	13	73
5	\$211,278	\$236,000	9	133
5E	\$95,850	\$99,250	5	44
6	\$195,392	\$194,000	22	58
7	\$444,468	\$375,000	11	99
8E	\$720,556	\$725,000	9	146
8W	\$709,000	\$562,500	10	78
9	\$84,750	\$84,750	2	140
10N	\$191,531	\$195,000	13	62
10S	\$173,466	\$165,000	19	37
11	\$110,938	\$110,090	6	32
DT (Downtown)	\$474,631	\$326,500	6	124
LN (Lake North)	\$177,543	\$188,500	11	118
LS (Lake South)	\$398,529	\$322,008	47	121
N (North)	\$175,545	\$174,500	16	60
NE (Northeast)	\$132,950	\$124,000	9	48
NW (Northwest)	\$203,018	\$176,500	25	67
PF (Pflugerville)	\$153,594	\$144,000	53	69
RN (River North)	\$485,147	\$385,000	25	81
RRE (Round Rock East)	\$172,949	\$150,500	48	91
RRW (Round Rock West)	\$258,361	\$241,000	51	78
SC (South Central)	\$130,678	\$99,000	9	45
SE (Southeast)	\$109,843	\$109,000	9	60
SWE (Southwest - East)	\$236,139	\$222,000	17	50
SWW (Southwest - West)	\$260,528	\$245,500	19	64
UT (University of Texas)	\$270,000	\$294,500	5	162
W (West)	\$274,875	\$290,000	9	49

BA (Bastrop)	\$141,968	\$141,700	14	58
BL (Blanco)	\$179,125	\$166,000	4	94
BU (Burnet)	\$147,376	\$110,000	10	86
BW (Bastrop West)	\$162,188	\$146,250	8	68
CC (Caldwell)	\$123,218	\$86,500	11	96
CLN (Cedar Park – Leander Nth.)	\$179,0874	\$157,060	43	69
CLS (Cedar Park – Leander Sth.)	\$213,995	\$219,495	38	97
CM (Comal County)	\$92,000	\$92,000	1	111
EL (Elgin)	\$118,283	\$113,500	5	69
FC (Fayette)	\$125,450	\$125,450	2	90
GTE (Georgetown East)	\$177,715	\$144,000	17	97
GTW (Georgetown West)	\$237,398	\$206,828	35	94
HD (Hays – Dripping Springs)	\$320,513	\$300,500	13	135
HH (Hays Consolidated)	\$181,970	\$156,000	47	67
HS (Hays – San Marcos)	\$127,250	\$122,950	12	40
HU (Hutto)	\$134,885	\$128,588	58	59
HW (Hays - Wimberly)	\$211,468	\$175,500	11	73
JA (Jarrell)	\$112,823	\$122,945	4	131
LH (Liberty Hill)	\$240,383	\$191,975	6	160
LL (Llano)	\$656,528	\$585,000	3	56
LW (Lake West)	\$196,875	\$196,875	2	40
MA (Manor)	\$143,025	\$114,650	15	75
MC (Milam County)	\$305,000	\$305,000	1	132
OT (Other)	\$113,580	\$124,900	5	83
SV (Smithville)	\$118,688	\$89,250	4	131
TC (Taylor-Coupland)	\$83,167	\$75,000	3	80
WW (Williamson West)	\$75,100	\$75,100	2	58

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10' x 14'	\$3800	6' x 12'	\$2000
10' x 12'	\$3500	6' x 10'	\$1800
10' x 10'	\$3200	6' x 8'	\$1600



◀ CONTINUED FROM P.11

In-lobby conveniences and retail establishments such as Ana's Mart, LaunchPad Cafe & Co-working space, and jeweler Anthony Nak, virtually next door, make Brazos Place Condos an easy place to live and a great place to enjoy living in Austin.

The Ivy @ 78704

What Real Estate Downturn? Some things are always in demand. Like a modern Austin condo close to downtown and all of the outdoor activities you can handle. Affordable modern living, convenience and location are in full demand. Best of all, this isn't just Austin. This is South Austin where the rock stars live. The good news is that there's room for one more. With interest rates at historic lows and amazing price points, this new home may save you money while giving you a brand new place to call home.

Is your rent going up? Get used to it. The answer is yes even if you don't know it yet. A recent Wall Street Journal article suggested that Austin's average rent may rise 6% per year for some time. Yikes. That means that renters will end up throwing even more money away with nothing to show for it, right? Yep. But there is finally an alternative.

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CONTINUED ON P.14 ▶

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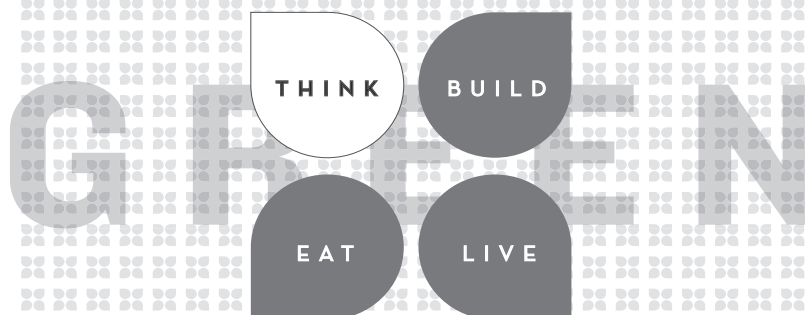


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◀ CONTINUED FROM P.13

Craftsman Shed

Since 2007, Craftsman Shed has quietly been building storage units and studios in the Austin area, and the buzz is steadily building. Owner **Shawn Somerville** jumped into the shed building business after noticing a glut of poor designs and shoddy workmanship that had become the industry standard. He felt that there was "a big opportunity to improve over what is widely available" while providing a creative outlet for himself as well as his customers.

After being disappointed shopping other sheds at the big box stores, Somerville decided to start in his own backyard and build his own. His first of many. "Those other designs all looked so corny," he said. As a result, he now draws inspiration from the beautiful and classic architecture in his own East Cesar Chavez neighborhood, full of old Vernacular-Victorian and Craftsman style homes, hence the name **Craftsman Shed**.

Today, Somerville's customers are his greatest inspiration as they are responsible for contributing to the design process from the start.

"I facilitate their creative process with a few guidelines and the knowledge of how to execute the details," he said. From basic storage needs to rehearsal space and personal pursuits, Craftsman Shed has been building more studios lately, including a sewing studio, a writing studio, and even an archeology studio.

The company plans to add a variety of **Eco-friendly** options in the near future, including water and solar collection, and non-toxic paints and recycled insulation. While most projects take just one to two weeks to finish, the first step is to call **577-3341** for a consultation.



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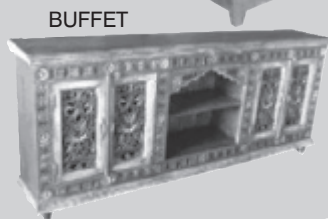
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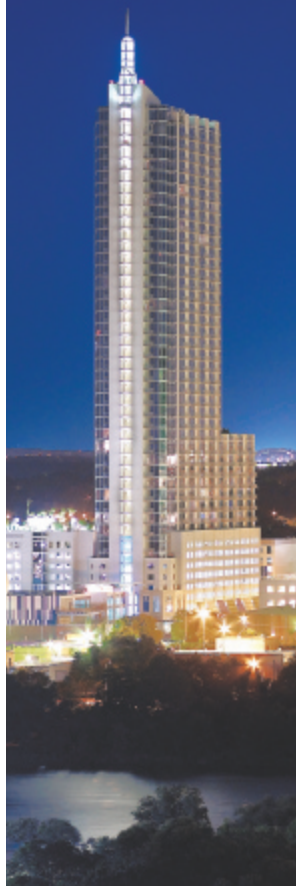
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